



# **ANAMALAIS**

C.R.T. CONGRIEVE





Mr. C. A. MARSH



To Carver Marsh to whom I owe everything, I dedicate this book. The pioneer of the District, he was good enough to let me come and live with him, and he taught me everything he knew, and we learned a lot together neither of us knew before. He was a very hard task master, but never asked anybody to do what he was not prepared to do himself, in fact I generally found he did far more than I was capable of doing.

## *Preface*

In my effort to write some account of the Anamalais, I have been met with the difficulty of obtaining facts. I also had to decide whether to write a book of reminiscences embracing some account of the original history of the district, or to stick chiefly to facts and official documents. After much thought and argument, I have eventually kept more or less to the latter.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, for people at the present time to visualise what this district was like when we first came to it in 1897.

There were miles and miles of evergreen forest, with a few main paths running through it made by the huge herds of elephants which roamed there in the dry weather between November and April. During the wet weather there were millions of leeches. The only inhabitants were a few Kaders living here and there in small communities, collecting minor forest produce, and making small clearings of hill rice, maize, and ragi, on which they largely lived. The only method of leaving the district was to walk to the foot of the hills, and then proceed by bullock cart to Coimbatore. The only other European for the first year was Mathew Loam, of the P.W.D., who was tracing roads, and who shared our

lonely life on Paralai. Our only dwellings were mud and grass huts, which leaked everywhere; our only tappal arrived weekly when we were lucky, so we had no bother about the daily post, or Managing Agents and Secretaries requiring urgent replies.

Compare the foregoing with present conditions; an excellent ghat road, good roads throughout the district itself, telephones, telegraphs, ropeway transport for goods, motor cars, club, electric power and light, a huge acreage under plantations products, and a big European community.

I sometimes wonder whether the old days were not more pleasant in many ways, with our very small community meeting every Sunday for tennis, always pleased to see each other despite occasional rows over trifles, and with no bother over daily tappal.

I begin this book with accounts of trips by Dr. Cleghorn and Capt. Michael, written by the former in 1861, as I am certain they will be of interest to many people. I am very grateful to the author for his excellent descriptions.

I also want to place on record my thanks for the willing help given me by every Government Official approached for information, and to some of the early planters of the district, to Managing Agents of Companies, and the Estates Staffs for all they have done to make this book what it is. I also add a special word of thanks to Mr. G. E. Walker for his great help towards getting the book published.

I feel sure it will be realised that in a book such as this there must be errors and omissions, and for these I crave indulgence.

# *Chapter 1: Early History*

## *Dr. Cleghorn's Account of His Trip*

### **Expedition to the Higher Ranges of the Anamalai Hills, Coimbatore, in 1858**

The excursion described in the following pages was planned by Dr. Macpherson, Inspector-General of Hospitals, and myself with a view to explore the Southern Range of The Anamalai (i.e., Elephant Hills), in the District of Coimbatore, which are sparingly laid down in the Great Trigonometrical Survey Map, while the peculiarities of their fauna and flora had not been recorded.

The project was approved by the Right Honourable Lord Harris, then Governor of the Madras Presidency, and the services of Major D. Hamilton were sanctioned by His Excellency Sir Patrick Grant, Commander-in-Chief, to accompany us as artist, to delineate the characteristic features of the country.

According to previous agreement, the village, ten miles from Pulachy and six from Anamalai, was the place of rendezvous. The party consisted of J. W. Cherry, Esq., Acting-Collector of Coimbatore, Drs. Macpherson and Cornish, Major D. Hamilton, 21st N.I., Capt. Fane, Lieut. R. H. Beddome, 42d N.I.,

T. B. French, S. L. Koe, W. Fraser, Civil Engineer, and O. B. Irvine, Esq., Assistant-Collector, accompanied by seven elephants. We started at 4 A.M. and arrived at the Anamalai River at 20 minutes past 5; the distance six miles, and the road much trodden by sheep and cattle. By the light of early dawn we distinguished the candelabrum-like stems of *euphorbia antiquorum*, and the dropping foliage of *salvadora indica*, which in habit resembles the weeping willow, and here attains a large size, the trunk being 10 inches in diameter.

After crossing the river, which was deep and rapid, in leaky basket boats, we traversed a number of paddy fields, and entered the bamboo and tree jungle which lies in the hollow between the river and the ascent to Punachi, and which becomes exceedingly thick and wet along the water-courses. After proceeding about a mile, we ascended by a winding bullock path, and reached Punachi at 9.30; the ghat we calculated to be at least three miles long. It is very steep, but easy enough for coolies. In one or two places we dismounted; the ponies scrambled over the boulders easily, but the elephants, though lightly laden, followed slowly and with difficulty, not reaching the huts till near dusk. The most trying work for the laden elephants is crossing the bed of mountain streams as the sloping boulders offer a precarious footing for these heavy animals.

From the top of the ghat to Punachi is above three miles of ascent and descent. About two miles from the top may be seen a magnificent precipice (about 200 feet high). The bluff rock overhanging the Torakudu River is reddish porphorite. The hills, like

the Nilgiris and Coimbatore District generally, consist of gneiss, and belong to the metamorphic rocks. Veins of felspar and quartz were common, some of them very large, crossing the foliated gneiss at right angles. The gneiss was generally of a grey colour, but in some places it was reddish. No crystalline limestone, such as is found associated with the gneiss in Coimbatore, was observed.

According to instructions given by Mr. Cherry, the Kaders had prepared three huts and stabling for us, in an open space, about 50 yards east of the coffee plantation belonging to Ramaswamy Mudeliar. These huts were admirably constructed, much superior to their own dwellings, and quite watertight. The uprights were made of jungle trees tied together by strips of bark, the cots of bamboo, and the thatch of the glabrous leaves of a species of *saccharum*. The coffee plantation was commenced twelve years ago; the soil is rich; the trees are at least 14 feet in height, left entirely to nature; a beautiful stream, however, is taken advantage of to irrigate the garden. The produce is much smaller than it might be under systematic management. There are some good teak trees standing in the middle of the plantation.

In the neighbourhood of Punachi, three or four large cattle kraals were seen, each containing from 50 to 80 head of cattle. Behind our hut was a waterfall, which is distinctly seen from Anamalai. The Punachi river tumbles over a precipice, which seems to be the edge of a considerable tract of table-land; this we regretted we had no opportunity to explore. Near to it are several dense sholas; and

above the cascade some bison pasture ground and ibex rocks.

Teak occurred for the first time on some undulating knolls two or three miles before reaching the village, and on the slopes of the basin leading to the river. The teak tree here is not of superior dimensions, but is widely diffused, forming nearly half of the forest at this place. Many of the trees would yield second-class logs; and they improved in size as we descended the gorge. Being in flower, the white cross-armed panicles formed a striking feature in the landscape. There is much fallen and decaying teak within three miles of the huts. I inspected the jungle, both in going and returning, and walked across in different directions, to estimate approximately the number and size of trees. The value of standing wood is about Rs. 50,000, and of fallen timber at least Rs. 5,000. I counted 50 trees on the ground well worth removal if there was easy transport. We saw further up the valley much venge (*pterocarpus marsupium*) and blackwood (*dalbergia latifolia*), which became more abundant as the elevation increased. These trees seem to prefer an altitude somewhat greater than teak, whilst the vella naga (*conocarpus latifolius*), of great size, occurs with the teak, or prefers a lower range.

The sholas near Punachi, between 3,000 and 4,000 feet above the sea, are very dense and rich in their flora. The following are a few remarkable forms observed:— A new species of *Jenkinsia* (Wallich); *chandrospermum*; *agrostistachys indica* (Dalzell); *dolenocarpus indicus*, a tree called by the Kaders



"palle-ille", the leaves of which are eaten; *elaëocarpus*, monocera, a new species of *Cookia* (Mur Kurungi), with a delicious fruit; *glycosmis pentaphylla*, *pierardia macrostackys*, with an edible fruit; *cleidion Javanicum* ("Walle"); *mesua*, with every large fruit; *calophyllum*, a species with narrow lanceolate leaves; *orphea*, two new species; *unona pannosa*, *guatteria coffeoides*, *cyathocalyx zeylanicus*, *garcinia*, *pletrospermum obtusifolium*, *sterculia guttata*, *machilus*, *casearia*, a new species; *euonymus*, two apparently new forms, one with downy leaves, and the other much like a lime tree; *agrostemma*, two species; *ophixylon*, a new species with falcate bracts; *pothomorphe subpeltata*, *acranthera zeylanica*, *nephilium erectum*, a very gorgeous species of *pachycentra*; and two rare *euphorbiaceous* trees, *dimorphocalyx glabellus* and *desmostemon zeylanicum*, lately described by Mr. Thwaites.

Many of the trees in the dark sholas are covered with beautiful epiphytes, especially the *hoya pauciflora*, *aeschynanthus zeylanicus*, and *sarcanthus fliformis*. The dripping rocks with *klugia*, two species, *epithema*, etc.; cardamoms with rich aroma, and the true ginger plant, abound in these sholas. The rocks in the beds of all the rivers, from 3,000 to 4,500 feet, are covered with a showy orange coloured balsam (*impatiens verticillata*). It often forms a fringe at the line of watermark, or appears in patches between the forks of a cascade. At a higher elevation, other species take its place, especially one figured in the "Madras Journal of Science, 1859" *impatiens tangachi* (Beddome). A truly aquatic fern, a new species of *pleopeltis*, grows in great abundance on rocks at the



bottom of the Torakudu river.

16th: Started at 8 A.M., having left five elephants and our heavy baggage; after two miles we came to a river. There is a large body of water 100 feet wide, 1½ to 2 feet deep. Immediately below the ford is a village of low-caste people. Much time was lost in crossing on elephants and afterwards in cutting a road through tangled brushwood, each man being furnished with a billhook or a shikaree knife. In the bed of the river we observed *entada pursoeatha* and *adelia nerrifolia*. At 4 P.M. we agreed to bivouac, and erected temporary huts.

About two miles after crossing the river, we made a detour to avoid a mass of rocks which descends to the water edge. We could ride as far as the waterfall at the foot of the Tangachi. In this place, as there are a few bamboos and no saccharum, we employed other hutting materials. Some gigantic crotalaria and indigofera stems were used for the walls, the stems being interwoven between the uprights, and the thatch was made of ginger grass andropogon schoenanthus; fortunately no rain fell during the night. In the short march today, the teak gradually became smaller and less frequent, and disappeared altogether two miles before reaching the Torakudu waterfall.

Opposite our bivouac was a remarkable rock called Cundita-malai, apparently 200 feet in height, on the precipitous scarp of which was a rattan cable 80 feet long, securely fixed above. This chain was formed of large rings of the calamus stem, connected by another straight rattan which passed down

through the centre of the loops; by means of this the Kaders descend the face of the rock to collect honey, etc. The river during this day's march tumbles over huge boulders of broken rock, and takes a south-east direction.

17th: Started at a quarter to 8, and reached the huts near the Torakudu waterfalls at half past 9, which are picturesque, and very beautiful. About two miles below these falls, Major Hamilton discovered an ancient cairn or cromlech a quarter mile to the left of the path, similar to those found in other parts of Coimbatore, and consisting of four immense stones, the upright slabs about 5½ feet high, and the covering stone 11 feet by 5 feet. The site of the huts was not well chosen, being in the bed of a stream below the falls, while there was no lack of good encamping ground around. There are here three waterfalls—a true fall of about 50 feet; another of about 100 feet; and a rapid cascade of 120 feet; which could not easily be approached.

Opposite the encampment is an Irular village of eight or ten houses, with a patch of ragi cultivation; and near this was another village of Mudhuvars. The day was fine, sometimes rather hot at night. Blankets were necessary, as it became cold towards morning. Very little dew fell, and at 6 A.M. there was none.

18th, 9 A.M.: As the two remaining elephants could not proceed further, the beds were carried by coolies, and each of the party took his own provisions for the day. We now ascended a steep rugged hill, impassable for horses on account of the immense masses of detached rocks; one in particular,

resembling a haystack, about 40 feet high, from the summits of which a rattan chain similar to that described was suspended. We proceeded through dense sholas for three miles, in the middle of which we crossed the river by a temporary bridge formed of a large tree felled by the Kaders for the purpose. Bramble *Rubus lasiocarpus* was first seen here.

After walking six miles round the base of the Tangachi, we emerged from the woods, in which were traces of wild elephants, upon a steep open grass hill. At this point the view across the valley of the Torakudu was very grand, extensive dense sholas skirting the rocky and precipitous hills, the summits being shrouded in mist. The *rhododendron arboreum* first occurred here—the elevation ascertained by Mr. Fraser to be about 5,000 feet. We continued to ascend the steep side of the hill till we arrived at the huts, which were situated on a lower spur of the Akka, near the edge of a large shola. Thick mist and violent rain came on soon afterwards. A herd of twenty-five bison were seen grazing on the opposite hill, and there were fresh traces of others near the hut.

19th, Sunday: Nothing seen. Thermometer, minimum 54° maximum 60°. Elevation calculated to be 5,600 feet. Cold wind whistled freely through the grass huts, the stakes were loosened, and the temporary erection nearly came down.

20th, Monday: It rained all morning. The Kader guides were unwilling to proceed. However, we started at 10 A.M. in search of the great valley alluded to in Captain Michael's report, and in an

hour reached a beautiful ridge shooting out from the base of Akka-malai; there was short, sweet pasture, and numerous indications of bison. The weather continued unfavourable, and so misty, that except during a few gleams of sunshine, we saw little of the country.

From this ridge (Bison ridge) we skirted the base of the Akka-malai, keeping above the sholas, and ascended the western side of the high range, which is clothed with remarkably short grass, to the right of the Akka. The previous afternoon some of the party ascended the shoulder of the Akka, which is considerably higher. Unfortunately, owing to the dense mist, they were not rewarded by a good view of the surrounding country. Mr. Beddome has favoured me with the following note of his ascent: "The rocky Akka mountain, which is probably upwards of 8,000 feet high, is quite covered near its summit with several undescribed species of *impatiens*. The only other new form I observed on this mountain was a curious crassulaceous plant with fleshy peltate leaves, growing in sheltered moist nooks of the rock.

"Balsams are very abundant on these hills. *Impatiens balsamina*, *dasysperma*, *albida*, *maculata*, *campanula*, *chinensis*, *tomentosa*, *verticellata*, *oppositifolia*, *Kleinii*, *tenella*, *rivalis*, *acaulis*, *modesta*, *latifolia*, *lucida rufescens*, *Goughii*, *cordata*, and several undescribed species."

Having proceeded several miles along this range, the summit of which was hidden in mist, we turned to the south-east. The mist suddenly cleared, and we

got a glimpse of numerous ibex on the rocks above, and saw a valley which appeared to be five miles long and two broad, with large sholas on the other side. The wind and rain increased as we proceeded. We came to the junction of the streams, near which is a beautiful waterfall about 350 feet high. The general character of the valley struck several as being like Pykara on the Nilgiris. The weather continuing very unfavourable, our attendants fatigued, and our provisions exhausted, it was necessary to retrace our steps.

Some of the herbaceous plants observed adorning the higher hillside pastures are:— *Flemingia procumbens*, *phaseolus pulniensis*, *anemone* *Wightiana*, *lysimachia* *Leschenaultii* and *deltoidea*, *urticularia*, *ranunculus reniformis*, *gentiana pedicellata*, with many others. But these examples are sufficient to show the similarity of the flora to that around Utakamand. Two curious and new species of *podestemaceoe* cover the rocks in the beds of the rivers.

21st: We left early, and much regretted our inability to remain another day. In looking back, we could see the highest range distant about 12 miles, north-east.

22nd: Major Hamilton and Messrs. Koe and Fraser descended into the gorge to examine the entrance to the hills by the valley of the Torakudu river. If a path can be constructed in this direction, the ghat near Punachi could be avoided, and the distance shortened by several miles. The rest of the party explored the forest, and descended the ghat by which we ascended. The day of our departure was

fine and bright, and we obtained a clear view of the higher ranges from the lower valley of the Torakudu.

About a month after our visit (8th November), Lieut. Beddome rode up in one day to the higher ranges, and had a fine view of the summit.

He writes— "The part that we traversed forms only a small portion of the valley, and is shut out from the rest by a sloping ridge covered with dense shola, which rises out on the opposite bank of the river. The greater part of the valley lies beyond this ridge; another meandering river runs through the larger portion of the valley; and towards the further extremity there is a large swamp, which could probably be converted into a fine lake. The valley extends two or three miles beyond the succession of waterfalls which we visited. It is widest just beyond these falls, where it must be four miles across; and the whole of the centre is comprised of undulating hillocks, very fine sites for building. From the Akka mountain, which I ascended, there run two high ridges, almost of the same height as the mountain itself; between these is a narrow valley, through which a river runs, eventually reaching Michael's Valley by the series of falls we visited. The mountains on the opposite side of the valley seem very high, and from the top of the Akka there appeared to be a good extent of table-land there. My time was very limited, or I should have explored the higher unknown portion of these mountains. I ascended the Tangachi Peak, which is very different in character from the Akka; the ascent lies through

dense sholas till within half a mile of the summit; thence the mountain is covered with almost impenetrable brushwood 6 to 10 feet in height, consisting chiefly of *myrtus*, *dodonoëa*, *rubus*, *litsoëa*, and *atylosia*. The mountain has a great many rocky caverns and crags towards the summit."

Again, under the 25th February 1859, Lieut. Beddome writes, "that he and Mr. Bryce went to that high land beyond Michael's valley, where there is a good extent of undulating table-land. The highest peak of the Anamalais, below which there appears to be table-land, is at least 25 miles beyond the valley, and seems to be very difficult of access. We had white frost in the valley."

I now append Dr. Macpherson's views on the eligibility of this range for a sanatorium and for future colonisation.

"The general appearance and character of these high lands resemble the Nilgiris. Here are the same rounded eminences and dense sholas, extending continuously for miles, their edges fringed with *strobilanthes*, and ceasing abruptly. The hills are conical, and the slopes covered with short rich grass, abounding with medicinal plants, as the *exacum bicolor* and *ophelia elegans* (gentians); the woods contain *hymenodyction excelsum* and other species of the cinchona family. Heavy rains, evidently the breaking up of the south-west monsoon, fell continuously during the period of our stay on these upper regions. The want of shelter, and the difficulty of procuring supplies, prevented us from proceeding to the highest parts of the range, which appeared to



be about 12 miles in a south-east direction from the extreme point the party reached. We therefore reluctantly, returned to the low country without fully attaining our object, having been absent eight days.

"Three distinct tribes inhabit the Anamalai hills; they are denominated Kaders, Paliars, and Malsars. The Kaders perform no menial labour. As their name implies, they are the lords of the hills; they carry a gun, and loads also, as a favour; they are expert at stalking game, but are deeply offended if called coolies. They are a truthful, trustworthy, and obliging tribe, and exercise some influence over the Paliars and Malsars. Small in stature, their features resemble the African; they have curly hair, tied in a knot behind, and file the four front teeth of the upper jaw to a point, as a marriage ceremony.

"The Paliars are chiefly herdsmen and merchants, while the Malsars are cultivators of the soil. None of these tribes reside at a higher elevation than 4,000 feet to 5,000 feet above the sea. All deal in the rich produce of these hills, and barter with the people in the plains their cardamoms, turmeric, ginger, honey, wax, resins, millets, soap-nuts, gall-nuts, etc., for rice, tobacco, etc. They are very expert in climbing trees and the precipitous face of rocks in search of honey. To accomplish the former, where there are no boughs, they drive short bamboo spikes into the tree, and thus form a ladder, by means of which they ascend the highest forest trees; and they reach the latter by means of chains formed by rings made with rattan, which being secured to a point above, drops down the face of the rock. We observed some of



these chains full 50 and 80 feet in length. The upper ranges are in undisturbed possession of wild beasts; we saw a large herd of bison, with deer and ibex in numbers, and also traces of wild elephants.

"The best period to prosecute inquiry into the upper ranges of the Anamalai mountains would be after October, or in the hot season. From their position, they are considerably under the influence of the south-west monsoon, but less so than the Kundahs at Sissipara; and I think it is worthy of inquiry to ascertain whether here, also, may not be found a climate as bracing and welcome to the enervated constitution of the European invalid as exists on our better known hill stations. The soil on the summit of these fine mountains is deep, and covered with rich pasture. Streams of water are numerous, and appear as if they flowed throughout the year. From the extent of forest, the resemblance of the flora to that of Ceylon, and the corresponding altitude of these hills, I believe they are suitable for the cultivation of coffee on a large scale, and for colonisation of small communities of Englishmen; a measure which would be attended with the happiest results, as it adds at once to our military strength, and, in course of time, would give us the means, to a certain extent, of recruiting our Army.

"It will thus be seen that the result of our excursion was not without interest. Some curious botanical novelties were found; the timber resources of the District were ascertained, and a large tract of country, suitable for coffee culture, was traversed,

which will doubtless be the scene of future colonisation."

H. CLEGHORN, *Conservator of Forests.*

The following extracts from reports by Capt. Michael and Lieut. Beddome contain additional information regarding the supplies of water and the timber resources of the District. It will be seen that to the former officer the credit is due of having first explored this interesting hill tract. "On the 22nd October 1851," he writes, "we ascended the hill, on the face of which the hut stood, which is connected with the Akka and Tangachimalai, and about the same height, but suited our purpose better, as it ran further into the interior, and gave us a better view of the surrounding country; we found the height at the top to be 7,000 feet; and observed a fine open valley about five miles in length, extending along the base of this hill, running from north to south, and watered by two small streams which unite at the north extremity, and fall over a rock forming the Torakudu river. At the south extremity is a conical hill covered with grass and small sholas on its sides, which appears to be the watershed of the whole range, the streams in the valleys falling off in every direction from the base of it; though there are many higher peaks, we were confirmed in this opinion by the fact that the sholas are smaller and less frequent in this spot than elsewhere: both to the north and south, heavy sholas extend continuously for miles,

while here they were in small patches of a few acres. This watershed point we concluded to be the hill marked "Paducalumudy" in the Trigonometrical Survey Map. From this we could see what is evidently the highest mountain point in the range. It is a rounded eminence, lying some 12 miles off in a south-easterly direction, and apparently not within the Travancore boundary; but as our time was limited, we could not visit it.

"On the 23rd, we went about five or six miles over very difficult ground on the steep side of a hill to the long valley above mentioned; and crossing the two small streams just above their confluence, found an old hut which had been built some time before by the Paliars of Dhulli, on one of their excursions in search of hill produce. In this hut we remained three days, exploring the vicinity, and ascertained that the whole of this beautiful valley is about 6,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is covered with slopes of short grass, full of flowers of the same description as are usually found on the Nilgiris, or rather at Kunur. The stream ran through small swamps, and was fringed with the rhododendrons, ferns, etc. The anemone, pedicularis, exacum, salep misree, and the large white lilies, were in great abundance; the sharp edges of the sholas were very marked, as they are about Utakamund and the Kundas. The thermometer stood at 56 in the morning, and at the night the cold was very intense.

"We did not see many wild animals; but the tracks of elephants, bison, deer, etc., covered the valley in every direction. It is probable that, when

the forest is burnt in the lower parts of the hills, the wild animals come up here in great numbers. I was in hopes that we should have fallen in with some "Mudhuvars" who had been described to me as inhabiting these mountains. It appears they do not frequent these higher ranges, but like the "Kurumbars" and "Irulars" of the Nilgiris, only cultivate and live on the slopes of the hills at a lesser elevation.

"I regret very much that my time would not admit our reaching the highest point and ascertaining the height; for, as far as we could judge from such a distance, it must be upwards of 8,000 feet above the sea level, and near it was a considerable extent of table-land much higher than the valley we were in.

"It took us two days to reach Anamalai; but even in the present rugged state of the paths, I think the journey might easily be done in one day."

J. MICHAEL.

Lieut. R. H. Beddome, Assistant Conservator of Forests, described the last excursion on 17th April 1860:—

"I have made a trip to the higher ranges of the Anamalai hills, and explored the country lying south of Michael's Valley, and also the Anjinad Valley (in the Survey Map marked "Kujeenad"), between the Anamalais and Pulnies. I was accompanied by Mr. E. G. G. Thomas, Assistant Collector of Malabar. Proceeding round the ridge of hills which form the

south side of Michael's Valley, we came upon a track which led over a beautiful undulating country to the southern ridges of the Anamalais, which overlook the Anjinad Valley. We found a well-beaten path leading down to the Anjinad. The head of the ghat is six or eight miles to the south of Michael's Valley. We here found a beautiful piece of table-land, situated to the right of the pass down to Anjinad, well watered, sheltered by high hills to the South, and lying about 6,000 or 6,500 feet above the sea level. I encamped here for several days, and explored the surrounding country. Mr. Thomas proceeded down the Anjinad Ghat, crossed the valley, and ascended the Pulnies by Manjapatti. To the east of the pass down the Anjinad there is much higher table-land, probably 7,000 feet above the sea, copiously watered by several springs and streams. This spot, and the table-land on which I was encamped, would form an admirable site for a station. They are separated from each other by a valley, which is the head of the pass down to Anjinad. The ghat down into the Anjinad Valley is nowhere precipitous; and a good road might be easily made from Anjinad.

"The scenery here is magnificent. The view north towards the Akka and Tangachi Peaks is very grand and to the south lies the Anjinad Valley, thousands of feet below, with the Pulnies towering beyond. I explored for ten miles the country to the west of my encamping ground. These southern ridges of the Anamalais are the chief water sources of the whole range. In four or five different places I found regular

channels which conduct much of the water which would otherwise flow towards Michael's Valley down into the Anjinad Valley. These channels have been dug by the Muduvars and Puliars, who inhabit this valley and the slopes down to it. To the west of my encamping ground there are several other beautiful spots of table-land, and also another fine valley, similar to Michael's valley, but with the slopes less precipitous.

"Hitherto I have only known three tribes inhabiting the Anamalai Hills, *viz.*, Kaders, Puliars, and Malsars. There is, however, a fourth tribe, the "Muduvars." Ten of this tribe joined us when first we ascended the mountains, and told us that they lived in a small village on the high land to the north of the Akka and Tangachi Peaks. They carried our baggage for one march, but all decamped in the night, and we saw no more of them. We were afterwards joined by a dozen Puliars, who remained the whole time. From the southern ridges of the Anamalais, another Muduvar village was pointed out to me. It was below my encamping ground, on the slope towards the Anjinad Valley. This village was known by the name of Kodakara. There appeared to be an extensive clearance of the shola near the village. I one day met three Muduvars from this village, not far from my encampment; they were armed with powerful bows and arrows, and were in search of ibex and sambar. They had a large dog with them.

"The sholas on these higher ranges are composed of very large trees, and are generally open, there being little or no underwood. Amongst the trees, the



following orders are chiefly represented: *myrtaceoe*, *lauraceoe*, *olacaceoe*, *araliaceoe*, *oleaceoe* *ternstroemiaceoe*, and *magnoliaceoe*. I found a few new plants, but two attacks of fever whilst upon the hills prevented my exploring as much as I could have wished. In many of the streams and rivers there were beds of most lovely balsams, in full flower, even at this season of the year. Two gorgeous flowers are characteristic of these hill streams, *sonerila grandiflora*, with a new and very large species of *exacum* or hill gentian. There is apparently no trace of either the rose or strawberry on these mountains, which is curious, as both are so abundant on the Pulnies and Nilgiris. The three species of *rubus* are, however, very common.

"The Anjinad Valley is about 1,500 feet above the plains. I proceeded to this valley, and from different parts of the slopes obtained a complete view of it. I was much disappointed there being no forest worth mentioning in any part of the valley. About the village of Anjinad (or Maraur, as it is sometimes called), and in fact all over the valley, there is a great deal of rice cultivation, with some bamboo jungle. Where there is forest it is very open, and the trees much stunted; with the exception of a few scraggy trees, there is no teak. Between the higher ranges of the Anamalais and the valley of the Ambravatti there are some very fine plateaus of superb shola forest, admirably adapted for the cultivation of coffee."



## *Chapter 2: The History of the Opening of the Anamalais*

Available records show that in 1864 Mr. R. J. Lowry of the Carnatic Coffee Co. made the first application for land on the eastern slopes of the Anamalais. Government agreed to the sale of these lands, which they termed 'waste,' and they were put up for auction in December of that year. A certain block, the acreage of which is not stated, was sold to Mr. Lowry freehold at Rs. 5 per acre plus the cost of demarcation, and another block was sold to the Carnatic Coffee Co. under the same terms. Thus started the Waterfall and Waverley Estates.

The Carnatic Co. was started in Madras with Messrs. Arbuthnot Latham & Co. as Agents and Secretaries, and it is interesting to note that the advertisement for the sale of this land was witnessed by Mr. (later Sir) Robert Stanes in Coimbatore.

In 1869 the Carnatic Co. went into liquidation, and in a letter to the Collector giving the reasons for the failure of this Company, the Liquidator wrote that the attempts to grow coffee on the Waverley Estate had proved a complete failure at a cost of Rs. 40,000, and that the estate had been sold for Rs. 2,400 to Messrs. E. Walsh and West.

In June 1864 Messrs. F. King & Co., Bombay, purchased 500 acres of land at Rs. 5 per acre through Mr. Charles Sanderson. This estate was called the Puchi Pal Estate, and lies under the mountain of that



name. Later it was apparently relinquished to Government but at what date is uncertain.

In 1865 Mr. F. King purchased a further 500 acres, but the situation of this block is not mentioned, and there is no record of what happened to it.

In the same year Mr. Nisbet purchased 166 acres. In 1866 Mr. R. J. Lowry purchased 340 acres for Dr. Ogg and opened it in coffee for him, but eventually this block was abandoned and resumed by Government. At the same time Mr. Lowry also purchased 130 acres, but whether for Dr. Ogg or himself is not mentioned. This land was also resumed by Government.

Messrs. J. Nisbet and Major F. G. Hodgson purchased a further block of 306 acres which Major Hodgson began to open. The Estate was divided into two parts known as the Mary Estate and St. Catherines.

At the time when the original purchases were made in 1864-65 Mr. F. Grant was Collector of Coimbatore, and in 1870 Mr. H. E. Sullivan the founder of Ootacamund, held that office.

In a letter from Mr. Lowry dated 19th October 1866 to the Collector of Coimbatore he intimated that he had sold a piece of land to Mr. Robert Stanes, and that the title deeds would be handed to him.

In 1870 Messrs. T. Stanes & Co. arranged to purchase the Waterfall Estate from Mr. Lowry, amounting to 1,300 acres, and Mr. Robert Stanes wrote to Mr. Sullivan, the Collector advising him of the purchase.

It was in 1875 that it was proposed to take His

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales (the late King Edward VII), who was then touring in South India, for a shooting trip to the upper ranges of the Anamalais, and the following notes appear in Government letters of that date.

The following accommodation, which was considered a minimum, had to be provided for.

H. R. H. and party	..	..	..	20	persons
Staff	..	..	..	10	"
European Servants	..	..	..	25	"
European Postillions		..	..	12	"

### NATIVE ESTABLISHMENT

Jemindars, Chuprassis, Kitmigars, etc.	..			40	
Personal servants	..	..	..	100	or more
Horses	..	..	..	100	
Attendants on horses		..	..	150	
Carriages	..	..	..	9	
Coachmen and Postillions		..	..	12	

The arrangements for H. R. H's. tour were that he should start from Podanur *via* the new road especially made for the occasion from the station to the Coimbatore-Pollachi Road, and drive right through to the Palaar River where a special camp was to be constructed. From there he was to drive next morning to Muthuthorai on the river where three special coricles and an elephant were in readiness.

He was to go from there up the new road to the Grass Hills, and the distance to the camps are given as follows:—

	Miles.	Elevation.
From the river bank to Poonachi Saddle	8¼	3,000 ft.
From Col. Michael's camp to Gundrow	5	2,400 ft.
From there to Vandal .. ..	7	4,000 ft.
From Vandal to Seringacolum ..	6	5,400 ft.
From Seringacolum to Covalie ..	5	5 to 6,000 ft.

A special telegraph line was laid from Podanur right up to the top camp at Quanal Ar, and was kept there till December 1875.

H. R. H. was to have visited the Grass Hills between November 19th and 26th 1875.

In September 1875 Colonel Michael wrote the Collector of Coimbatore saying that when at Waterfall in September Mr. Kelly had told him he had heard several shots fired on the hills above. Colonel Michael asked the Collector to prohibit all shooting, and to ask the Travancore Durbar to try and stop the Mudavens going to the grass hills to shoot.

On November 20th Government advised the Collectors of Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, and Malabar that due to a change in the programme H. R. H. would not be able to visit these districts, the reason given being that "the time assigned for H. R. H's.

stay will preclude his visiting any of these districts."

Colin Mackenzie told me that as soon as it was definitely known that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was not visiting the Anamalais, he, Macgregor and (I think) Colonel Michael went up there, and lived in the camp prepared for the Royal Party, and on the provisions and wines which had already been transported there, and that they had an excellent trip.

In 1877 Lt. Colonel Beddome, Conservator of Forests strongly advised Government not to grant any more land in the Poonachi Valley which after its exploration by Captain Michael was all declared reserved forest, and as it contained a lot of teak which was valuable, it was intended in the near future to work this; the fact that the coffee planters were established in the valley would undoubtedly give rise to disputes and complications, which it would be desirable to avoid.

From letters I have seen, it is evident Government contemplated making a road to the grass hills at that period. In a letter from Col. Beddome to the Collector in Coimbatore he writes that he "considers it wholly desirable that no land be granted to planters through which a Government road may in the near future be made." This letter was written as the result of an application by Mr. F. Bell for 1,000 acres of land on the banks of the Toonacadavu River.

The following proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 20th March 1877 are of extraordinary interest. Whether the C. Mackenzie referred to was Colin or not I have been unable to ascertain, and whether the land applied for was part of the present

planting district on the western slopes seems to be unknown, but Colin Mackenzie frequently told Marsh and myself that he and others had applied for land on the western slopes on many occasions, but that Government had refused to grant it.

The proceedings are as follows:—

“Read the following letter from A. Wedderburn, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore to H. E. Stokes, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 31st January 1877 No. 46.

With reference to the proceedings Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 18th January 1877 No. 230 referring to me for report a letter from C. Mackenzie, Esq., requesting to know whether Government are disposed to sell or lease lands on the higher range of the Anamalais Hills in the Coimbatore district, and if so, on what conditions, I have the honour to state that lands were purchasable outright with certain restricted portions under the conditions noted in G.O. No. 476 of the 5th March 1863, Board's standing orders No. 154 Dalzell's edition; that in 1865 and 1866, 3,025 acres of land were sold, after which there were no more applications; that in 1873 Mr. R. Stanes, who had purchased one of these properties, proposed to contribute a sum of Rs. 3,000 for the improvement of a bridle path to the Poonachy Saddle being the first elevated table land about 1,800 ft. above the foot of the ghat, or 3,000 ft. above sea level, that a ghat was traced by Col. Farewell and made to the extent of a bridle path, at a cost of Rs. 16,697 inclusive of Mr. Stanes' contribution. The last official document on the subject of disposal of land on

the Anamalais is proceedings, Madras Government dated 25th March 1874, Public Works Department No. 848. In paragraph 4 of the Government order in which it is ordered:—

“It is understood that the Collector is taking preliminary steps to dispose of estates in the Anamalais, which have lapsed to Government by failure of the owners to pay the purchase money and assessment. Their extent is said to be 1.200 acres and he will be instructed in the Revenue Department to defer further action in the matter until sufficient progress shall have been made in the ghat and road works to raise the value of the land for coffee planting to a fairly remunerative price.”

Whether sufficient progress has been made with the ghat and road works to warrant further action in the matter as regards disposal of the land is, I presume, to be a subject of report. The ghat, so far as the first table land is perfectly practicable. In some places, however, the path is only 3 ft. wide and somewhat dangerous riding. A manifest improvement might be made by taking the road from the lowest zigzag straight towards the ford, where a straight road leads to Pollachi. Several miles would be avoided by this deviation and a good road on the north side of the river at once gained instead of the detour to the foot of the old ghat. Such as the road is, it is quite practicable for bullocks loaded.

2. As regards the disposal of land, the matter is in abeyance, pending the order of the Government; the land in arrears has been paid up in respect of the properties shown below:—

(1)	Mr. R. J. Lowry, arrears	...	...	...	Rs. 4,024
(2)	Do.	do.	...	...	" 1,688
	(Waterfall Estate is said to have been purchased by Messrs. Stanes, Coimbatore, arrears paid by Messrs. Bainbridge, Byard, Geir & Co.)				
(3)	The Carnatic Coffee Co.	...	...	...	" 618
	(Waverley Estate is said to have been purchased by Messrs. Walsh & West; arrears paid by the Carnatic Coffee Co.)				
(4)	Mr. J. Nisbet 2 esters	...	...	...	" 171
	(Said to have been purchased by Chittoor Ramasamy Mudaliar who paid the arrears)				
Total					... " <u>6,501</u>

#### AERREARS NOT YET PAID

(5)	Mr. F. King, extent 555 acres arrears	...	Rs. 4,103
(6)	Mr. R. J. Lowry 2 estates 442 acres arrears	...	" 2,615
(7)	Mr. J. Nisbet—85 acres arrears	... ..	" <u>532</u>
			" <u>4,250</u>

The arrears consist of original purchase-money and survey expenses, the land is sold free of assessment.



3. I am not aware of any reason why land should not be disposed of as originally intended. There is a reserve forest teak track as per Capt. Michael's map of the Anamalais and printed report dated 15th April 1863; there is a project of reserving building sites for a sanatorium in Michael's Valley. Whether this upper part will be habitable during the monsoon has not yet been tried by experiment. It is understood that the rainfall is very heavy and continuous, somewhat resembling that of the Kundars, which are not habitable for several months of the year. The large and valuable river Ambravutty rises not far from the south side of Michael's Valley. It is far more copious than the Pykara or Moyer river, which rises at Mookhuti peak in the Kundars exposed to the direct burst of the Southwest monsoon. The cold, wet, and exposure would be a disadvantage on the higher ranges during four months of the year. This, however, would be a matter for future colonists to decide. I myself doubt whether it will be necessary to reserve the Valley as building sites for a future station. I have only once visited the Valley, which was in January, supposed to be the driest month in the year; the climate is like that of Wellington at that period. The objection to the Anamalais as a sanatorium is: that there is very little table land in comparison with the Nilgiri plateau; that the upper range is exposed to the S.W. monsoon as Ootacamund would be if situated among the Kundas; and the very unhealthy character of the lower, or Poondy Plateau, where no halt can safely be made, or safe resting place gained until a



very high hill side is climbed. So long as the Nilgiris afford sufficient accommodation as a sanatorium I doubt if the Anamalais to which a journey of 40 miles from Coimbatore is requisite, before even the base of the hill is reached, and a fatiguing ascent of 25 miles before safety from fever can be secured, will come into demand as a place of resort, the few inhabitants of the hills would be an obstacle to cheap labour, and supplies must be drawn from Pollachi, 40 to 50 miles distant as the case may be.

4. Should the land be sold outright as before, probably coffee, tea and cinchona planters will be attracted. I am not aware of any reason against such sale, with the proper reservation of land by the forest department both for teak forest and for conservancy of the water supply.

Submitted to Government with reference to the order quoted.

Vide G.O. dated 1st July 1863.

2. With the exception of certain portions reserved, land in the Anamalais is available for planters under the rules embodied in Board's standing order No. 151, and it appears that the ghat is practicable for pack bullocks and suffices for present requirements. The Board sees no necessity for reserving building sites in Michael's Valley, as the prospect of a sanatorium being established there is very remote.

As regards the estates on which arrears are still outstanding, the Board thinks that notice might now be given to the defaulters that if the arrears are not

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

forthwith paid, the land will be resumed.

(Signed) G. A. GALTER,

Sub-Secretary

To the Secretary to Government Revenue Dept.

Copy to Collector of Coimbatore."

Michael's Valley is the original name of Konal Ar Valley and so called after Captain Michael who first traversed it. It is interesting to note that the Carnatic Coffee Co. was wound up because it was found that coffee would not grow properly owing to the S.W. Monsoon. From a letter I have received from Sir Robert Stanes, it would appear that Mr. Walsh to begin with only made a bare living out of Waverley, and that the same might be said of Waterfall; but that as the Estate grew older and prices improved the estates became paying propositions. The Waterfall Estate, originally sold as already mentioned by Mr. Lowry to the Waterfall Co., was for many years managed by Mr. Bell who floated it in London as the Anamalai Coffee Co.

It has been impossible to find any further information about the early days in the Anamalais, as there are few records available.

Apparently about 1895 a number of people applied for land on the western slopes of the Anamalais. In a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, Mr. H. Bradley, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Land Revenue dated 17th April 1895, he advises the Board that a number of planters had applied for land on the western slopes. The

following is a copy of the proceedings in connection with this:—

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Land Revenue)

Read the following letter from H. Bradley, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue (through the Conservator of Forests Southern Circle) dated 17th April 1895, Ref. on No. 2778 Cur:—

I have the honour to report that a number of applications have been received from planters and others for land on the Anamalai hills for planting purposes.

2. As the Board is aware, practically the whole of the portion of the Anamalai range, which is included in this district, has been declared to be reserved forest. But as the opening up of this immense tract of country seems to be highly advisable, and the matter appears to have reached a practical stage, I request that it may be decided at once for all, whether land on the Anamalais can be granted for planting, and, if so, upon what terms.

3. The applications received hitherto are for an area of about 31,500 acres, of which only 2,500 acres being on the Coimbatore side of the watershed are likely to affect irrigation in this district. I do not

think any land should be granted on this side of the watershed, so that the applications now dealt with may be said to cover some 29,000 acres. Two of the applicants apply for 10,000 acres.

4. The District Forest Officer agrees with me in proposing at present to reject all applications for land on this side of the watershed, and proposes that all the land lying beyond the watershed might be scheduled, as available for planting purposes upon leases, the conditions of which should now be decided. I enclose extracts from his office-notes written on the 28th February and 30th March after his inspection of the land for which applications have been received.

5. Generally, I agree with the District Forest Officer's observations subject to the following further remarks:—

(1) The land should not be disafforested but simply leased.

(2) The lease should run for thirty years subject to renewal at the end of that period at a rental not less than that payable under the original lease and not greater than the highest rental paid for similar and similarly situated land.

(3) That as. 4 per acre should be payable for the whole holding to be increased to Re. 1 per annum upon all land opened up after two years, and Rs. 2 per annum after five years from the date of opening.

(4) That the lessee shall open not less than 5 per cent. of the land by the end of the first year, 10 per cent. by that of the second and 20 per cent. by that of the fifth and 30 per cent. by that of the tenth.

C. A. Marsh

(5) That no charge should be made for timber, but the lessee should not be allowed to carry on trade in timber.

(6) That the lessee should not be allowed to cut specified reserved kinds of trees without the permission of the District Forest Officer.

(7) That if the District Forest Officer should wish to remove any of the specified trees from unopened land, he shall be at liberty to do so.

(8) That the lessee shall pay the usual land cess in addition to his rent.

(9) That the lessee shall have no right to the minor produce, but that all Kaders and other hill tribes shall be at liberty to enter upon the unopened portions of the property for the purpose of collecting minor produce, provided they hold the written authority of the District Forest Officer.

(10) That the lessee shall not dispose of any portion of his grant without the permission of the Collector.

(11) That the lessee shall permit the District Forest Officer or any subordinate of his and any Revenue Officer not below the rank of Revenue Inspector to enter the land for the purpose of inspection.

(12) That if the lessee does not renew the lease, the buildings erected on the land shall be delivered up at the end of the lease in a state of proper repair.

(13) That all arrears shall be recoverable under the Revenue Recovery Act.

(14) That the whole or any portion of the land shall be resumable by Government, subject to a payment of Rs. 200 per acre, if the land has been

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cultivated for under five years and Rs. 500 per acre for over five years.

(15) That any land required for a road or path shall be given up to Government without payment of compensation.

(16) That the lessee shall make and maintain through his land to the satisfaction of the Collector a road which will be traced by the District Forest Officer.

6. Condition (1) is inserted to keep the control with the Forest Department. The rent reserved by condition (3) is low as the initial cost of opening the country will be very heavy. Conditions (4) and (5) are intended to provide for the gradual opening of land to prevent land-jobbing. The object of conditions (5), (6) and (7) is to retain the timber trade in the hands of the Forest Department, in the event of the improved communications permitting of the extraction of the better kinds of wood. Condition (9) is for the protection of the Kaders. If the planters choose to take up the minor produce contracts, they can do so provided they do not stand in the way of Kaders or other jungle tribes. Condition (14) is intended to enable the Government to resume the land if it wishes to do so. Condition (15) is reasonable as no planter could reasonably object to the improvement of his communications in such an out of the way tract. Condition (16) is intended to throw upon the lessee his responsibility of maintaining the inspection path referred to in the District Forest Officer's notes.

7. With the above conditions, in addition to those



proposed by the District Forest Officer, I can see no possible objection to the grant of the land on the Cochin side of the watershed for planting purposes.

8. If the Board wished it, sketch-maps and boundary descriptions of the lands applied for on the Cochin side of the watershed can be submitted. They have been prepared and the areas computed from the Government of India Survey Maps.

## ENCLOSURE 1.

Extract from Mr. Gass' office note of 28th  
February 1896.

17. As regards these conditions, I will omit reference to special terms but bring to notice the following essentially "forest" requirements:—

- (a) Necessity for practical boundaries.
- (b) Preservation of certain trees.
- (c) Treatment of Kader inhabitants.
- (d) Protection of wild elephants
- (e) Admission of rights of way.
- (f) Reservation of a 12 ft. strip of land for a road.
- (g) Exclusion of areas for bungalow sites, rights of access to them and use of water.

18. (a) The boundaries in all cases must be cleared, demarcated and kept open by lessees of



land; and be practicable ones, and generally capable of perambulation.

This appears to be the case with Nos. 1 and 2, but in that of No. 6 the lines are impossible ones, mere map lines, from peak to peak, across deep valleys and up precipices. In the interest of the applicant himself, considerable modification will be necessary, so much of the ground on the north-east side being of a rocky nature and sparsely covered with scattered forest. Ridges and natural features must be followed on the ground, and at the south-west corner some change may be necessary so as to limit the land leased to the junction of Murungalli Ar with the Karakundru Ar, below which there is a fine waterfall.

19. (b) The preservation of certain trees should not present any great difficulty. Ordinarily those that are found in evergreen forest are little known and valued for their timber, and it is in such forest that planting would take place. The better-known and valuable species are found in the deciduous forests in the valleys, and at low elevation. There is none in applications 1 & 2, but a certain proportion in 6. The opening up of the hills may facilitate the working of timber trees such as teak, vengai and blackwood, but I do not anticipate that they will be found in large numbers of any size, except perhaps the last named, which appears to be fairly abundant. It would suffice to reserve selected trees belonging to the reserved class, relinquishing control over the remainder, from a timber point of view.

20. (c) Kaders living on the Anamalais appeared to have formed themselves into clans, and to have

occupied from time immemorial certain unmarked but recognised limits, within which they make the collections by which they earn their living, and in which every hill and stream and every feature of the country is well-known to them by name as also every pathway. Beyond these limits, they profess to have no knowledge of the country and can give no information. Such a group of this hill tribe, comprising some 40 men, and perhaps 100 individuals in all, is to be found within the broad limits embracing the applications for land. The next Kaders to them are those living at Ulandi near the Tekadi lease forest boundary. Another group lives usually at the village, or collection of temporary huts, known as Punachi, to the east of, and below the Waterfall Estate. For many years they have been in the habit of going for four or five months in the year during the cardamom season to Paralai within the limits of the land applied for by Mr. Windle. Here also there are some old abandoned Ponakad clearings of theirs, and in the Thalanar Valley, in No. 6 application, running south-west from the point Thalanar Malai, there is an old abandoned cardamom cultivation of theirs. These people have for many years collected minor produce for the Forest Department, and now they collect it for the minor produce contractor under the present contract system and he is bound down to pay them proper rates, and their interests are safeguarded by me, as far as I am able to do it. They collect cardamoms, dammer, seevakai, perambu (canes), honey, wax, maddipal (a gum), pepper, saffron and ginger, and

they take their collections largely in the very land comprised in these applications, and in that to the south and south-west of them. If, therefore, the land on a large scale passes into the hands of private individuals in the shape of leases, unless some special conditions be imposed, the occupation of this group of an interesting tribe of people would be gone to a large extent, and with it a considerable share of the lease amount obtained from the contract by the Forest Department. It would, therefore, be necessary to reserve the minor produce, and to guarantee the right of collecting it to these people. They are a timid race and not accustomed, nor willing, to do cooly work in clearing, digging, etc., and if molested by the lessees of land would doubtless migrate to the Travancore or Cochin Forests. A foot-hold at Paralai should therefore be secured to them. They informed me that they had a strong inclination to cultivate again the old Ponakad clearings there, and I should allow this free, and mark off for them a limited area around it, within which they can live undisturbed.

21. (*d*) The country included in No. 6 especially and to a smaller extent in Nos. 1 and 2, and I may say broadly the whole country to the south, south-west and west of Paralai, is the feeding and breeding ground of large numbers of wild elephants, many of which halt there throughout the year, and if disturbed by extensive opening up, they would probably change their abode and migrate south-west or west into Cochin. A clause would have to be inserted to prevent any active steps being taken by

private individuals to destroy or capture them.

22. (e) The several pathways, mostly animal tracks leading through the lands applied for, must be kept open for use, or new ones substituted. This would constitute no hardship to lessees.

23. (f) The reservation of a strip of land for a road for inspection purposes is very essential. I have referred to this in paragraph 5. The whole of this country is at present inaccessible and impossible to move about in, for want of a road, and if steps are now to be taken to throw it open to planting, a means and a right of inspection must be provided, and I consider that this should be secured by a road traversing the country between Mount Stuart in the leased forest and the Punachi Ghat Road in the Punachi hills. Such a road, following the line I have marked on the Survey of India maps, would be about 35 miles in length from the foot of the Punachi Ghat to Mount Stuart, traced at a convenient gradient, and 6 ft. broad, with a reserved margin on either side of 3 ft.

I would divide it into three sections. From the foot of the Punachi Ghat Road, skirting the Waterfall Estate, to where the boundary of the first leased land was reached.

From this point, through the leased lands, to where the last point in the leased lands on the west was reached.

From this point to Mount Stuart. The first section is constructed from the foot of the hills to the forest station marked A on the map, and I would trace it and construct it from there at Government expense and maintain it by contributions from the Forest

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

Department and the planters interested in its upkeep. The second section I would have traced by a Forest Officer, but make it a condition that it must be constructed and permanently maintained by the lessees of the land through which it passed.

The third section would of course be traced, constructed and maintained by the Forest Department. Striking south-east and then east from near Paralai it would be possible to join on an inspection path leading to the higher ranges of the Anamalais.

24. (g) The last consideration is the necessity to exclude areas from the leases sufficient for the construction of small rest houses at convenient distances apart. So far as I see at present, one would be wanted at or near Paralai marked D or the man and another at or near the saddle marked D. to the west of Kalliparai malai and beyond the western limits of No. 6 application. Means of access to the forest stations and rights to use of water would have to be secured.

### ENCLOSURE No. 2

Extract from Mr. Gass' Office Note of  
30th March 1896

7. These further extensive applications will necessitate the alteration and lengthening, by at least 10 miles, of the line of the proposed traced road, referred to by me in my previous office-note in paragraph 5, 17, and 23, and I have indicated now, with a double-dotted black and red line, the line of

road I would suggest, and even this cannot well be made to pass through Mr. Hodgson's and Mr. Mackenzie's land [now Periakaramalai . . . *Author's Note*], and it will be advisable probably to make a branch road to that application, to be opened and maintained by him.

8. I referred also in paragraph 24 to the need for two rest-houses. These new applications would make a third one necessary, and Sirikundra, a grass hill to the south of Mr. Edmiston's southern application [now Pachaimalai . . . *Author's Note*], marked E. by me, would be suitable place for one.

9. In paragraph 23 I spoke of a section of the road skirting the boundary of the Waterfall Estate. This would be a very difficult line owing to the configuration of the ground, and I have since found on reference to the original maps of the Estate, that there is a right of way and land reserved to a width of a chain through it, the line being somewhat as I have indicated with a double-dotted line from B. to A. This is an important matter for Government, and I shall take early steps to lay out the line of the reserved track on the ground from the map, as I fear, it has in parts been planted up.

10. If I may venture to make any remarks about general terms, I would suggest that Government retain the power to resume the lands in its hands by granting leases only for thirty years or more.

That the question of disforeſting be not considered at all.

That a fixed rental be charged for all land included within the leases, say as. 8 per acre per

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

annum, and for all opened land at the rate of Re. 1 in the second and third years and Rs. 2 per acre in the fourth and subsequent years.

That no tax be levied for the trees whether on opened or unopened land.

That the conditions named by me in paragraph 17 of my first office-note be required to be fulfilled.

\* \* \* \* \*

Endorsement by E. D. M. Hooper, Esq.,

Ag. Conservator of Forests, S. Circle, dated 20th  
April 1896 No. 3408.

Forwarded as desired direct to the Forest Commissioner. The undersigned sees no objection to abandoning forest growth on the Cochin side of the watershed. The main points for consideration are the restriction here proposed and the question of retaining the leased areas as reserved forests which is advisable.

As regards the conditions further study is necessary.

Resolution—Forest No. 211, dated 15th May 1896.

The papers read above which relate to nine applications for 31,500 acres or nearly 50 square miles of land for coffee cultivation in the Anamalai reserved forest will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Anamalai reserved forest in the Coimbatore District is a compact block of about 420 square miles, of which about 160 miles drain into



Travancore and Cochin and the remainder into Coimbatore. Applications have been made for land on both sides of the watershed, but as a large area of wet land in the arid plains of the Coimbatore District depends for its water-supply on streams which take their rise within the reserve, the Board agrees with the Conservator and the local officers in considering that no clearings should be allowed on the Coimbatore side of the watershed. (The existing coffee estates which form enclosures to the reserve covering an area of about three square miles were granted before the forest was reserved.)

3. As regards the other side of the watershed to which the bulk of the applications relate, the conditions are quite different and the entertainment of applications is not only free from objection, but will tend to enhance the value of the forest which remains uncleared, by facilitating the opening out of communications. The whole area of about 160 square miles consists almost entirely of wellwooded land. Towards the west the elevation is rather low and much of the forest is deciduous in character, but the remaining 120 square miles is mainly dense evergreen forest at an average elevation of from 3,000 to 4,500 ft. apparently admirably adapted for coffee cultivation, but containing few timber trees which at present have any marketable value, or are ever likely to have any, so long as the country remains unopened. With the heavy rainfall of the S.W. Monsoon the reservation of these forests is in no way called for for climatic purposes, and for the same reason the country into which the streams run

cannot be in any special way dependent upon them for irrigation. Anything like complete denudation moreover need not be feared, as coffee nowadays is generally grown under shade, and owing to the prevailing very high winds the planted areas will require to be protected by the permanent reservation of large belts of forest. Specific conditions to this effect may also be prescribed if necessary.

4. The propriety of granting leases for coffee cultivation in reserved forests was fully discussed in connection with the Shevaroy hills in the correspondence ending with Government order, No. 212, Revenue dated 8th April 1895, but the conditions of the locality now under consideration are not quite similar and it will be impossible to adopt without modification the form of lease then decided on. On the Shevaroy, for instance, it may be taken as certain that all new coffee cultivation will be carried on under shade, but owing to the greater moisture and rainfall of the Anamalais it is possible that small clearings nestling amidst high and dense evergreen forests may be found to answer as well as extensive plantations under shade. In fixing the assessment also it must be borne in mind that the planters in their own interests will have to retain large areas of uncleared forest, though the superiority of soil and rainfall will permit of the imposition of a higher rate in the areas brought under cultivation. A suitable charge in the Board's opinion will be an initial assessment of as. 8 per acre on the area of the holding, to be raised eventually to a charge of Rs. 2 on the acreage cultivated or capable

of cultivation, the periods at which the increments should be imposed being left to be determined when the detailed conditions of the lease are decided on. The rate proposed for uncleared land is low, as it will merely be held as an adjunct to the cultivated land, Government reserving all forest rights which may become valuable as the country is opened out.

5. The District Forest Officer and the Collector submit for approval a number of conditions which they consider necessary in the interests of forest conservancy and for the protection of the jungle tribes who now subsist by collecting minor forest produce and who cannot, as all experience shows, adapt themselves to changed conditions and settle down as estate labourers. The Conservator, it will be observed, offers no remarks on the details of the conditions as he had no time to study them fully before sending on the papers to the Forest member of the Board who was then engaged in inspecting the land and discussing the matter with the Collector and the District Forest Officer.

6. The conditions proposed have the general approval of the Board, but some will require modification. Condition (iv), for instance, which prescribes the periods within which land is to be opened out, will require very careful consideration, and the power reserved under condition (xiv) will have to be specifically restricted to what is intended, viz., the acquisition of land for public purposes under the Land Acquisition or Forest Acts. If, therefore, Government will now sanction the grant of leases on the south-western side of the watershed

subject to a few main conditions, the Board will arrange for a conference with the applicants, after which it will be in a position to submit a detailed list of conditions which can be embodied in a form of lease by the Government Solicitor after the approval of Government has been obtained.

7. As the country to be opened up is at present devoid of inhabitants other than a few jungle tribes of the most primitive habits, and there are absolutely no roads, the organization of a supply of labour, and the pioneer work generally, will be a matter of very considerable difficulty; but as land suited for coffee cultivation is now very eagerly sought after, it will be impossible to encourage pioneers by the grant of any concessions which would make it easy to take up land and hold it for speculative purposes, or which on the other hand would offer a temptation to applicants who may have a *bona fide* desire to open land out and cultivate it, but are not in possession of enough capital to enable them to do so. In view of these two very different kinds of dangers it seems desirable to prescribe, as proposed by the Collector, that a certain proportion of any land taken up shall be planted within fixed periods which can be decided on at the conference alluded to above. Every applicant should also be required to deposit Government paper to the amount of Rs. 2 for every acre applied for, the deposit being eventually adjusted in payment of assessment or other dues. It will also be well to prescribe that no application shall be entertained for any area less than 640 acres in extent. This may at first sight seem a somewhat high minimum, but as

of cultivation, the periods at which the increments should be imposed being left to be determined when the detailed conditions of the lease are decided on. The rate proposed for uncleared land is low, as it will merely be held as an adjunct to the cultivated land, Government reserving all forest rights which may become valuable as the country is opened out.

5. The District Forest Officer and the Collector submit for approval a number of conditions which they consider necessary in the interests of forest conservancy and for the protection of the jungle tribes who now subsist by collecting minor forest produce and who cannot, as all experience shows, adapt themselves to changed conditions and settle down as estate labourers. The Conservator, it will be observed, offers no remarks on the details of the conditions as he had no time to study them fully before sending on the papers to the Forest member of the Board who was then engaged in inspecting the land and discussing the matter with the Collector and the District Forest Officer.

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subject to a few main conditions, the Board will arrange for a conference with the applicants, after which it will be in a position to submit a detailed list of conditions which can be embodied in a form of lease by the Government Solicitor after the approval of Government has been obtained.

7. As the country to be opened up is at present devoid of inhabitants other than a few jungle tribes of the most primitive habits, and there are absolutely no roads, the organization of a supply of labour, and the pioneer work generally, will be a matter of very considerable difficulty; but as land suited for coffee cultivation is now very eagerly sought after, it will be impossible to encourage pioneers by the grant of any concessions which would make it easy to take up land and hold it for speculative purposes, or which on the other hand would offer a temptation to applicants who may have a *bona fide* desire to open land out and cultivate it, but are not in possession of enough capital to enable them to do so. In view of these two very different kinds of dangers it seems desirable to prescribe, as proposed by the Collector, that a certain proportion of any land taken up shall be planted within fixed periods which can be decided on at the conference alluded to above. Every applicant should also be required to deposit Government paper to the amount of Rs. 2 for every acre applied for, the deposit being eventually adjusted in payment of assessment or other dues. It will also be well to prescribe that no application shall be entertained for any area less than 640 acres in extent. This may at first sight seem a somewhat high minimum, but as

already explained it will never be possible to open out more than a portion of a holding and the uncleared area will be held at a low rent.

8. As the whole reserve has been surveyed by the Topographical Survey of India and an excellent map has been published on a scale of 4" to the mile, it will be possible to proceed with the grant of leases as soon as the conditions have been decided on. The favour of early orders is requested as the opening out of this large tract of country will be of great benefit and early orders may save the loss of a working season.

9. As a map of the 4-inch scale showing the whole area under consideration is somewhat unwieldy, the map forwarded as an enclosure to these proceedings is a tracing from the district map on a scale of 2 inches to the mile which is sufficiently accurate to give a general idea of the lie of the land. The area for which it is proposed to entertain applications is the eastern portion of the block which lies to the south and west of the red-ink line.

(True copies and Extract)

(Sd.) R. C. C. CARR,

Ag. Secretary.

To The Secretary to Government, Revenue Dept.,  
with a map.

To The Collector of Coimbatore.

To The Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Copy to other Conservators.



## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

The following people applied for land according to a schedule drawn out for Government by the Collector:—

Messrs. C. V. Narasiah, E. G. Windle, both in October 1895; Messrs. Rhodes-James, W. L. Edmiston, C. A. Mackenzie; Messrs. H. P. Hodgson, H. Scott, J. W. Chambers, Mrs. G. Chambers. Messrs. Scott Skirving, and Messrs. G. L. Chambers, Fergus Wolsey Smith, J. A. Boyson, O. Scott, S. R. and G. L. Chambers; Messrs. J. Campbell, O. Scott Skirving and J. W. Chambers and A. W. Brody.

The total acreage of these applications amounted to 63,500 acres or approximately 100 square miles. As a result of these applications the Board requested the Collector of Coimbatore to hold a meeting to discuss with the applicants the terms on which land might be leased, and in a letter from the Collector, Mr. Herbert Bradley, dated 26th June 1896, he wrote that he had to report that a meeting was held at Coimbatore on the 25th June when the conditions of the proposed leases were discussed with the majority of the applicants for land on the Anamalais in the presence of the Forest Member, the District Forest Officer and himself. Almost without exception the applicants were present or represented, and he thought the conditions drawn up would be accepted by them all.

The following are the conditions:—

(a) That the lease should run for 30 years subject to renewal at the end of that period at a rental not greater than that paid for similar and similarly situated land. This condition is intended to retain the

right of Government to increase the rental at the end of 30 years if the value of coffee land shall have increased.

(b) That the rent shall be 8 annas per annum payable on or before the 25th of March each year for the whole holding, to be increased to Rs. 2 on every acre which shall have been planted for 5 years.

(c) That the lessee shall plant up not less than 10 per cent. of the area of his holding by the end of the tenth year of his lease. This condition has been materially altered owing to the uncertainty of the labour supply and the difficulty anticipated at the outset in obtaining labour.

(d) That no charge shall be made for timber used by the lessee, but the lessee shall not be allowed to carry on trade in timber.

(e) That the lessee shall not cut any of the following trees without the permission of the District Forest Officer:—

Teak—*tectona grandis*

Rosewood—*dalbergia latifolia*

Vengai—*pterocarpus marsupium*

Venteak—*lagerstraemia microcarpa*

Jack—*artocarpus intergrifolia*

Wild Jack—*artocarpus hirsuta*

(f) That the District Forest Officer shall be at liberty to remove any trees from unopened land.

(g) That the lessee shall pay the usual land-cess in addition to his rent.

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

(h) That the lessee shall have no right to the minor produce other than coffee, but that all Kaders and other hill tribes shall be at liberty to enter upon the unopened portions of the property for the purpose of collecting minor produce other than coffee, provided that they hold the written authority of the District Forest Officer. This is to meet the possibility of the hillmen stealing coffee on the pretext of gathering wild coffee.

(i) That the lessee shall not dispose of any portion of his grant except to persons approved by the Collector. The object of this condition is to meet the objections raised by the applicants that the value of the property will be greatly diminished if they are unable to dispose freely of it, and at the same time to ensure the Government against really undesirable tenants. *Bona fide* transfers should not be objected to, but applicants should not be allowed to split up their holdings and sell them or portions of them to a large number of petty men and in fact to speculate in the land.

(j) That the lessee shall permit the District Forest Officer or any subordinate of his and any Revenue Officer not below the rank of a Revenue Inspector to enter the land for the purpose of inspection.

(k) That all arrears shall be recoverable under the Revenue Recovery Act.

(l) That any portion of the land required for public purposes shall be resumable by Government subject to a refund of the assessment already paid without interest on unopened land, and compensation at Rs. 30 per acre if the land has been cultivated for

less than 5 years, and Rs. 800 per acre if it has been cultivated for more than 5 years.

The figures in my former letter were taken from the Shevaroy leases and it is considered that land in the Anamalais will be more costly to open, and probably more valuable when opened than the Shevaroy lands.

(m) That the lessee shall make and maintain through his land to the satisfaction of the Collector a road or if necessary roads to be traced by the District Forest Officer. These roads shall be 6 feet wide with a margin of 6 feet on each side. No deduction from the area of the holding shall be made on account of these roads.

(n) That save with the permission of the Collector no products other than coffee or cocoa shall be grown by the lessee.

This condition is inserted as it is considered that if the land is opened for coffee or cocoa it would be practically forest, both these products being generally grown under shade. But if these should fail, and it be desired to grow tea and make complete clearances of the forest, it may be necessary to completely revise the conditions of the lease. For the present therefore it seems desirable to restrict the cultivation to these products. Cardamoms are intentionally exempted as there are very many wild cardamoms in the forest on which the hill tribes partly depend for their livelihood. It is also hoped to induce the hillmen to grow cardamoms and there would be constant friction if the planters also grew them. The applicants are not anxious to grow cardamoms.

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

(o) That the lessee shall make a deposit of Rs. 2 per acre in cash or Government securities before entering on the land. This sum shall be adjusted in payment of the assessment and other dues which may fall due.

(p) That the lessee shall clear the boundaries of his holding to a width of 12 feet and demarcate them with cairns or otherwise within a reasonable time so as to satisfy the District Forest Officer, and that the deposit provided for in the last clause shall remain intact and the assessment be paid in cash until this is done.

The object of this clause, of course, is to compel the lessee to clear his boundaries within a reasonable time.

(q) That all disputes as to boundaries between the applicants shall be referred for the order of the Collector whose decision shall be final.

(r) That the lessee shall not interfere with wild elephants except as provided by the Elephant Act I of 1873, and that the tusks of all elephants killed under the provisions of the Act shall be the property of Government.

(s) That the lessee shall on no account interfere with the hill tribes, and should it become necessary for him to close any of their customary parts, he shall provide another right of way in its place.

(t) That the lessee shall grant rights of way through his land to inspection bungalows and other buildings the property of Government and from such buildings to the nearest drinking water, and shall permit Government officials and the hill tribes to use drinking water passing through his holding.

(u) That no mining rights shall be conferred by the lease.

(v) That the lessee may at any time resign the whole of his holding from the commencement of the fasli year succeeding that in which he gives notice of his intention to do so.

Order No. 495, Revenue, dated 28th September 1896, reads as follows:—

Forest No. 212. The Government regrets that, after a most careful consideration of the subject, it is unable to accept the Board's recommendations in regard to the conditions to be inserted in the leases which it is proposed to grant for the cultivation of coffee on the Anamalais.

2. The terms upon which the Government has decided to lease out the forest land on these hills are enumerated below, and the Government Solicitor will be requested to draw up and submit for approval at a very early date the necessary draft lease. Pending the preparation of the lease, the Board will be at liberty to dispose of applications made by individuals who signify their assent to the conditions laid down in this order.

3. In as much as the leases are intended for the use and reference of persons who are not versed in technical phrascology, it is in the opinion of Government desirable that they should be couched in clear and intelligible language resembling rather the form of a legal enactment than that of the lease recently drawn up with regard to the lands cultivated with coffee on the Shevaroy hills. In drawing up the form of lease the Government



## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

Solicitor should therefore curtail, where practicable, the use of the customary legal phraseology, and with this object should arrange the several conditions under separate paragraphs in serial order.

4. The Board will observe that the main difference between the conditions proposed and those which Government has now decided to lay down, consists in the method by which the disposal of the land will be regulated. The decision to sell the leases by auction at an upset price of Rs. 5 per acre will render unnecessary any initial deposit such as that proposed in condition (c) of the Board's list. Another condition which has been designedly omitted is that which prohibits the lessee from cultivating other products than coffee or cocoa. In the opinion of Government no such restriction is necessary.

The two applications received from both Mr. Edmiston and Messrs. Binny & Co. being treated as one.

5. While however it has been decided that the principle of sale by Auction shall be followed in future, the Government considers that there is no objection to the grant to each of the fifteen\* original applicants specified in Board's proceedings, No. 280, dated 4th July 1896, of an area not greater than 1,000 acres and not less than 160 acres on payment of a fixed price of Rs. 5 per acre. This should be intimated to the several applicants who should at the same time be informed that any application for the purchase of land on these terms must be made and the purchase money forwarded to the District Collector before the close of the current year and



that the grant of such applications will be subject to the conditions enumerated in this order.

6. The Government is prepared to undertake the construction of a main road through the land which it is now proposed to lease out for cultivation, and the Public Works Department will be requested to arrange for the immediate tracing of such a road with the necessary principal branches. The requisite width on either side of this tracing should be reserved to Government and excluded from lease. The maintenance of the main road when completed and the construction and maintenance of the necessary branch roads for the use of the public will devolve on the Local Boards.

7. With reference to condition (ix), the Government desires the Board to draw up a definition of "minor produce" to be communicated to Government, and after approval, to the Government Solicitor for incorporation in the draft lease.

8. The Government now proceeds to enumerate the rules and conditions which it has been decided shall regulate the leasing out of the portions of the Anamalai forest in the Coimbatore District situated on the south-west or Travancore-Cochin side of the watershed, that runs through the reserve from the south-east to the north-west.

(i) The leases shall run for a term of thirty years and shall be sold by auction at an upset price of Rs. 5 per acre subject to the condition that no lot shall exceed 1,000 acres or be less than 160 acres in extent. The detailed conditions which shall attach to such auctions are shown in the appendix to this order.

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

(i-a) The initial assessment shall be eight annas per acre per annum, but from and after the beginning of the sixth year of the lease two rupees per acre shall be chargeable on so much of the holdings as shall have been cultivated and eight annas per acre on the remainder provided that the assessment shall not be less than the following:—

In the 6th year Rs. 2 per acre on 1/20th of the holding and subsequently.

---

					8 as per acre on the balance.	
"	7th	"	"	"	1/10th	" "
"	8th	"	"	"	3/20th	" "
"	9th	"	"	"	1/5th	" "
"	10th	"	"	"	1/4th	" "
"	11th	"	"	"	3/10th	" "
"	12th	"	"	"	7/20th	" "
"	13th	"	"	"	2/5th	" "
"	14th	"	"	"	9/20th	" "
"	15th	"	"	"	1/2th	" "
"	16th	"	"	"	11/20th	" "
"	17th	"	"	"	3/5th	" "
"	18th	"	"	"	13/20th	" "
"	19th	"	"	"	7/10th	" "
"	20th	"	"	"	3/4th	" "
"	21st &	"	"	"	4/5th	" "

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(ii) No assessment shall, in any case, be leviable on public roads accepted as such by the Collector.

(iii) The assessment shall be leviable in respect of the official year ending 31st March and shall be payable on or before the 1st March.

(iv) The land-cess and village cess and any other cess imposed by law shall be paid by the lessee.

(v) All arrears shall be recoverable under the Madras Revenue Recovery Act II of 1864, and if they are not paid within a date to be specified by the Collector, the Government shall further be at liberty to enter upon and resume possession of the land, in which case the lease shall thereupon determine.

(vi) The lessee shall within six months of the issue of the lease clear and demarcate the boundaries of the holding to the satisfaction of the Collector, and shall subsequently in like manner clear and demarcate them within three months of any special requisition to that effect made by the District Forest Officer; in default the District Forest Officer may cause the holding to be demarcated and the cost shall be recovered from the lessee by the Collector as an arrear of land revenue.

(vii) All disputes as to boundaries between the lessees of adjacent lands shall be referred for the orders of the Collector, whose decision shall be final.

(viii) The officers of the Forest Department shall not interfere with trees which are left standing on cleared land, or which in the Collector's opinion may be required as windguards, but shall have power to remove trees of the under-mentioned species from other land which has not been cleared

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

and to dispose of them by sale or otherwise:

Teak—*tectona grandis*

Rosewood—*dalbergia latifolia*

Vengai—*pterocarpus marsupium*

Venteak—*lagerstreamia microcarpa*

Jack—*artocarpur integrifolia*

Wild Jack—*artocarpus hirsuta*

For the purpose of clearing the land or of erecting buildings on his holding the lessee shall be at his liberty to fell any tree, and may use or dispose of trees so felled at his pleasure subject to the proviso that no timber shall be transported beyond the limits of the Anamalai forest except on payment to the Forest Department of a fixed seigniorage for each kind of tree. In the case of classified trees the seigniorage shall be leviable at such rates as may from time to time be fixed, not exceeding three-quarters of the maximum rates which have been or may be notified under section 26 of the Madras Forest Act as applying to the district of South Coimbatore. In the case of reserved trees the Board of Revenue will be requested to frame and submit a table of rates for the approval of Government. No fees shall be leviable in respect of trees which are neither reserved nor classified.

(ix) The lessee shall enjoy the free use of the minor forest produce of his holding, subject to the condition that Kaders and other tribes shall be at liberty to enter upon the unopened portions thereof

for the purpose of collecting minor produce, provided that they hold a written authority from the District Forest Officer.

(x) The lessee shall enjoy no mining rights.

(xi) The lessee shall grant the rights of way through his land to inspection bungalows and other buildings the property of Government and from such buildings to the nearest drinking water, and shall permit Government servants and the hill tribes to use the water passing through his holding for domestic purposes and for their animals.

(xii) Any portion of the leased land required for public purposes shall be resumable by Government subject to a refund without interest of the assessment already paid on unopened land, or to compensation at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre if the land has been cultivated with coffee, tea, or cinchona for one year, Rs. 200 if so cultivated for 2 years, Rs. 300 if so cultivated for three years, Rs. 400 if so cultivated for four years, or Rs. 500 if so cultivated for five years or a longer period. In the case of land which has been cultivated with other products, the cost of clearing only shall be refunded.

(xiii) The lessee shall permit any Government servant authorised in that behalf to enter upon the leased land for the purpose of inspection or to make any survey or to enquire into any offence against any law or for any other purpose specified by the Collector in writing.

(xiv) The lessee shall not be restricted from transferring his rights in the leased land, provided that the obligations to which he is subject shall be

binding on the transferee, and that the Collector shall have power to impose an assessment of rupees four per acre on the entire holding if any transfer is made of a portion thereof less than 100 acres in extent.

(xv) The lessee shall not interfere with wild elephants except as provided by Madras Act I of 1873, and the tusks of all elephants killed under the provisions of the Act shall be the property of Government.

(xvi) The lessee shall on no account interfere with the hill tribes, and should it become necessary for him to close any of their customary paths, he shall provide others in their place to the satisfaction of the Collector.

(xvii) The lessee shall not be at liberty to give up a part of his holding, but may resign the whole thereof at any time after 12 months' notice.

(xviii) The lease shall be subject to renewal at the option of the lessee, provided that the assessment on opened land may be enhanced on renewal of the lease to a sum not exceeding rupees four per acre on the cultivated area.

(xix) If the lease is not renewed the lessee shall surrender the land with everything standing thereon to Government.

(xx) For the purpose of these rules the Collector shall have power to decide what portions of a holding are "cleared", "opened", "unopened", or "cultivated" as the case may be. He shall also have power to decide what cultivation is entitled to the compensation admissible under condition (xii).

9. Land which has once been relinquished under



condition (*xvii*), or which has been resumed by Government, will on re-sale by auction be liable to pay the full assessment of rupees two per acre on all cleared or cultivated portions from the commencement of the new lease and the terms of condition (*ii*) shall be applicable only to the portions thereof unopened at such date.

10. A supplemental standing order embodying the rules laid down in these proceedings should be submitted for the approval of Government as soon as the form of lease to be issued has been settled.

(True Extract)

(Sd.) G. STOKES,

Ag. Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

- " Government Solicitor.
- " Collector of Coimbatore.
- " The Public Works Dept.
- " Local and Municipal Dept.
- " Financial Department.

## APPENDIX

Rules for the leasing out of lands on that portion of the Anamalai forest reserve in the Coimbatore District which lies on the slopes draining towards



## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

Travancore and Cochin.

1. Applications for land in this reserve shall be addressed to the Collector of the District and shall be accompanied by a tracing of the topographical map of the Survey of India on which shall be marked the block of land applied for. The applications shall contain the following particulars:—

(a) The estimated area of the land applied for.

(b) The situation of the land and its boundaries as accurately as can be stated.

2. No lot shall exceed 1,000 acres and no lot shall be less than 160 acres, unless otherwise specially ordered by Government.

3. Every lot shall be compact and shall include no more than one block of land capable of being surrounded by a ring fence. A block of land will be regarded as fulfilling this condition although a public road may pass through it.

4. On receipt of an application under rule 1, the Collector shall require the applicant to deposit 10 per cent. of the upset price, which deposit will be refunded in case the lease of the land be not bought in by the applicant, and shall thereupon advertise the lease of the land for sale at the Collector's Office at a specified hour and on a specified date which shall not be less than three months after the deposit of such sum.

5. A notification of the intended sale of the land specifying the locality the boundaries, the approximate extent and annual assessment of the land, and the place, time and conditions of sale, shall be posted for three clear months on the land itself as

well as in the offices of the Collector and of the Tahsildar of the Taluk. An advertisement of the intended sale shall also be inserted in the *District Gazette* and published in one or more of the principal papers of Madras, Calcutta, Ceylon and Singapore. If the sale be not completed on the date fixed in the notification, the Collector, subject to the provisions of the rule 8, may postpone the sale for a period not greatest than 7 days to a date to be specified by him and to be intimated to all the parties that may be present and to be posted up in his office.

6. The Collector shall send to the applicant by registered letter notice of the place and time of sale, but no sale shall be postponed in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicant.

7. If the applicant withdraws his application prior to the date of sale, it shall be discretionary with the Collector to proceed with sale or not as he considers best for the public interests. In such case, the applicant will be entitled to the refund of so much only of his deposit under rule 4 as may not have been expended in publishing the advertisements and notifications under rule 5.

8. The lease of the land shall be brought to sale on the day appointed, provided,

(a) That the application has not been withdrawn, or that if withdrawn, the Collector has decided under rule 7 to proceed with the sale, and

(b) That no claim of private proprietorship or exclusive occupancy or of any other right incompatible with the lease of the land under these rules has been preferred and admitted by the

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

Collector as sufficient ground for the postponement of the sale. At the appointed time the approximate area of the land as plotted on the map shall be announced and the lease of the land for a period of 30 years shall be put up for sale at an upset price of Rs. 5 per acre and sold to the highest bidder above the upset price, subject to the following annual assessment payable on or before the first March of every year:—

(i) During the first five years of the lease, eight annas per acre per annum on the whole holding.

(ii) From and after the beginning of the 6th year of the lease, two rupees per acre per annum on so much of the holding as shall have been cultivated and eight annas per acre per annum on the remainder, provided that in no year after the first five years shall the Assessment be less than the following:—

In the 6th year Rs. 2 per acre p.a. on 3/20th of the holding and 8 annas per acre per annum on the balance.

---

"	7th	"	"	"	1/10th	"	"
"	8th	"	"	"	3/20th	"	"
"	9th	"	"	"	1/5th	"	"
"	10th	"	"	"	1/4th	"	"
"	11th	"	"	"	3/10th	"	"
"	12th	"	"	"	7/20th	"	"
"	13th	"	"	"	2/5th	"	"
"	14th	"	"	"	9/20th	"	"

C. A. Marsh

"	15th	"	"	"	1/2	"	"
"	16th	"	"	"	11/20th	"	"
"	17th	"	"	"	3/5th	"	"
"	18th	"	"	"	13/20th	"	"
"	19th	"	"	"	7/10th	"	"
"	20th	"	"	"	3/4th	"	"
In and after the							
	21st	"	"	"	4/5th	"	"

(iii) No assessment shall be leviable on public roads accepted as such by the Collector.

For the purpose of calculating the assessment leviable in any year the Collector shall be the sole judge whether the land is or is not "cultivated".

Every lease granted under these rules shall run from the date of its execution; but the assessment payable thereunder shall be leviable in respect of the official year and shall fall due on the 1st March in each year of the lease.

9. Every bidder shall deposit 10 per cent. of the upset price before bidding, and the successful bidder shall pay the remainder of the purchase money plus all expenses under rule 5 within thirty days on pain of forfeiture of his deposit.

10. Arrears of annual assessment shall be recoverable as provided under section 66 of the Madras Forest Act V of 1882 in the same manner as arrears of ryotwari land revenue are or may be recoverable by the law for the time being in force in the Madras Presidency.

## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

11. Lands, the lease of which has been sold under these rules, shall continue subject to all taxes payable by law.

12. The existing and customary rights of Government, of other proprietors and of the public in existing roads and paths and in streams running through or bounding lands leased under these rules are reserved and in no way affected by such leasing.

Resolution—Forest No. 466-A dated 3rd October 1896.

Communicated to the Collector of Coimbatore for information and guidance.

It will be seen that while Government imposes on the planters more onerous conditions in some respects than were proposed by the Board it relieves them on the other hand of the duty of constructing a road and undertakes to do this work itself. In framing its recommendations the Board was largely influenced by its belief that the speedy opening of a road in an isolated and uninhabited tract of this kind could best be secured by enlisting the co-operation of a number of individuals, each interested in the work, as well as in promptly securing the command of a body of organized labour which they would require for other purposes after the completion of the road. If, however, the Public Works Department can succeed in getting the work carried through with equal promptitude, the opening out of the tract need in no wise be delayed by the adoption of the conditions now prescribed.

3. Any of the applicants specified in para 5, who may intimate their acceptance of the conditions

enumerated in the order, may be permitted by the Collector to enter on the land selected by them immediately after payment of the price fixed by Government.

4. The term "minor forest produce" is ordinarily understood to include all produce which is not timber or firewood, but as that definition would hardly meet the requirements of paragraph 7 of the Government order, the Board submits that it will suffice if a list of the produce which the hill tribes have been in the habit of collecting is appended as a schedule to the lease. The Collector is requested to have a list prepared accordingly.

5. With reference to the conditions prescribed in paragraph 9 (ii) (a) the attention of Government is requested to paragraph 3 of Board's proceedings No. 211, dated 15th May 1896, in which it is explained that owing to the very high winds prevailing in the locality the planted areas will require to be protected by the permanent reservation of large belts of forest. The Board doubts if it will ever be safe for a planter to open more than one-half of the area in his occupation, and would therefore deprecate the imposition of a condition involving the payment of the enhanced rate of Rs. 2 upon any higher proportion than one-half of the area save in the case of land actually cleared. In the opinion of experienced Forest Officers the effect of over-clearing might be most disastrous, and the insertion of any condition, which might act as a stimulus in that direction, is in the Board's opinion inadvisable.

6. Condition 8 of the same paragraph takes the



## The History of the Opening of the Anamalais

place of conditions (*d*), (*e*) and (*i*) in the Board's proposals, and permits trading in timber subject to the payment of seigniorage, the right of the Forest Department to fell being restricted to the six kinds reserved under the Board's proposals. For the latter purpose Government has adopted the list of trees which the Board proposed to prohibit planters from felling. As this list was framed with special reference to an entirely different set of conditions, the Collector is requested to report whether he would recommend the inclusion of any other species. The table of rates called for by Government should be submitted at the same time.

7. The supplemental standing order called for in paragraph 10 will be submitted in due course.

(True copy and extract)

(Sd.) R. C. C. CARR,  
Ag. Secretary.

(True copy)

(Sd.) V. A. PARTHASARATHY MUDALIAR,  
Forest Assistant.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

- " Secretary to Government, Revenue Dept.
- " Conservator of Forests, S. Circle.
- " Other Conservator of Forests.



C. A. Marsh

" Land Revenue Section.

" Messrs. Binny & Co., Madras.

To Mr. H. Scott, Esq.

To Mr. J. W. Chambers, Esq.,

To Mrs. G. Chambers.

To the Hon. Mr. G. L. Chambers.

To Mr. Fergus Wolsey Smith,

" J. A. Boyson,

" J. Campbell,

c/o Messrs.  
Binny & Co.,  
Madras.

" C. V. Narasiah,

" E. G. Windle,

" Rhodes-James,

" C. A. Mackenzie,

" H. P. Hodgson,

Through the  
Collector of  
Coimbatore.

To Messrs. O. Scott Skirving &  
Mr. A. W. Brodie.



## *Chapter 3: Early Days — The Beginning of a Labour Force*

As Government refused to allow more than 1,000 acres in any one application, because, I understand, they said this would only lead to land gambling, a certain number of the original applicants withdrew their applications. Mr. E. G. Windle, who had applied for a block of land close to the ghat on the Western side, visited the district in 1896, being probably the first applicant who ever personally visited the locality, though the late Mr. Fletcher Norton on behalf of Messrs. Binny & Co. must have been up during 1896.

Mr. Windle having arranged for the financing of the opening of his estate, which was known as the Paralai Estate, engaged as Manager Mr. C. A. Marsh ("Carver") who had been working on the Craigmere Estate with the late Mr. H. P. Hodgson for 17 years. At the beginning of February 1897, Windle, Marsh and I left the Nilgiris for the Anamalais.

Travelling from Coimbatore in those early days was a very different matter from what it is at the present time. Ordinary bullock carts were the only means of transport, and it was necessary to leave Coimbatore about 3 o'clock in the afternoon in order to reach Angalakurichi early the following morning. On arrival about 9 A.M., we found 100 coolies

waiting with all Marsh's camp kit and saman ready to carry it up to Paralai. It was, I remember, a very hot journey, and we did not leave Angalakurichi—4 miles from the foot of the ghat—much before 11 o'clock. In those days one crossed by a ferry at Muthuthorai instead of at Vannanthorai, where the present bridge is situated. The crossing was done by means of coracles, and during the S.-W. Monsoon, it was sometimes impossible to get across the river at all. The old bridle path, the construction of which is mentioned earlier in these notes, and which brought us up to Waterfall Estate, was for the most part in very bad order. This Estate was in the charge of Mr. Franz and visited by A. W. Brodie.

We stopped the night at the Forest Bungalow at Waterfall, and on arriving there the coolies informed Windle and Marsh that they were going no further, but returning to their villages. The reasons they gave were that they had never been beyond Waterfall, that there were no roads or paths, that the jungle was infested with elephants and other wild animals, and that nothing would induce them to go on. I remember Marsh spending a whole afternoon talking and arguing with these coolies and after many hours persuading them to agree to go on to Paralai, though they insisted that they must first return to their villages as they had no food with them for the journey, and must make arrangements. They arranged, however, to return on the following evening so as to be able to make an early start the next day. This they did, and we then started our

journey up to Paralai. Beyond the Waterfall Coffee Estate there was a jungle path which lead by Kavarakal Parai to the Paralai rocks, which we reached about mid-day.

We found Mr. M. Loam, Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department, and Mr. W. L. Edmiston camped there. The former had been deputed by the Government to make a bridle path from the foot of the hills to Paralai, and the latter had come up to demarcate the boundaries round a block of land he had purchased close to Paralai. We had brought up tents with us, which were pitched on the rocks close to the camp of the other two. The whole of the present western side of the Anamalais in those days consisted of virgin forest, most of which had never been explored, and through which there were no roads of any kind. The only means of travel were along various paths made by the elephants and by the jungle people inhabiting the Anamalais.

We spent the first part of our time exploring the land for which Mr. Windle had applied, and it was very interesting going about this almost pathless forest and working more or less by compass. I well remember how one day after travelling through the forest we struck a path. Marsh was very keen to continue along the path, which he insisted would take us back to the Paralai rocks, whereas Windle wished to go by compass. The result of the argument was that each went their own way, and that Marsh got home some time before Windle.

After 10 days, Windle and I returned to the

Nilgiris together with Edmiston, leaving Marsh and Loam in the district, but Marsh had asked me whether I would come up there and live with him and work under him, an offer which I very gladly accepted. The result was that early in March 1897 I went up to the Anamalais for good.

It is hard to realise the enormous difficulties of pioneering a district such as the Anamalais. The only form of road which existed from the low country was a very rough bridle path as far as Waterfall Estate, beyond which there was no kind of communication whatever except on jungle paths.

Labour was non-existent, as the few jungle men found in the Anamalai Forests had never been used to doing any form of work and were disinclined to do anything beyond acting as indifferent guides through the jungle and clearing the undergrowth. The only form of transport consisted of coolies whose loads were limited to about 50 lbs. and who took at least two days to come up from and return to their villages. Low country labour intensely disliked proceeding beyond Waterfall, as, during the dry months, they were liable to meet elephants anywhere along the road, and the very nature of the jungle created a terror for people who had been born and bred in the low country and who had never been into the forests. The result was that, to begin with, enormous prices were asked for the carriage of goods to the District, and for the first month after Marsh's arrival he was completely boycotted by everybody in the low country because he refused to

give more than the sum which he considered adequate for carriage of loads to the District. However, the natural curiosity of the people of the low country very soon lead to an influx of labour requiring work, and Marsh was able to start felling the forest within the month of his arrival.

The first people who came forward and undertook this work were the ordinary village chettys who had been used by the Forest Department for cutting firewood on the edge of the low country, and who thought that they were adequately equipped for dealing with the huge forests in the Anamalais. The labour they imported was chiefly Mulcers and local coolies, and they made a very poor hand indeed in dealing with our forests. Considering that it was almost the middle of February before Marsh got to the District at all, it is rather wonderful that he was able to clear about 80 acres and to get it ready for planting by the end of June.

Shortly after our arrival in the District, a Moplar contractor named Veerasahib came up asking for work and was immediately taken on, and this man and his decendants have during the last 35 years been instrumental in clearing a vast area of forests, as practically the whole of old Paralai, Naduar, Kaliandipandal, Karamalai, Vellamalai and parts of Monica and Stanmore were felled by him and his immediate relations and decendants.

There was a considerable influx of Boyan labour shortly after our arrival, and these people who were very keen on any form of contract work were a great

standby at the beginning. Of course, there were no bazaars to begin with, and great were the difficulties experienced in getting up food for the coolies. The usual practice was for them to come up carrying 6 to 7 days food. While it lasted they worked and then returned to their villages for 3 or 4 days. This, whilst proving an admirable plan, made any continuity of work difficult, and as it was necessary to settle up their accounts at the end of each period of 7 days, it entailed a heavy burden of work on us.

As mentioned before, when we arrived in the District we found Loam and Edmiston already in residence. Edmiston ("the Laird", as he was well-known throughout South India) had applied for a block of land (now known as Pachaimalai) which lay to the south of the Paralai Estate, and he had come up with the idea of putting in boundaries and making a general survey of the land.

One of our first jobs was the demarcation of the boundaries round the various blocks of land which had to be opened, and as these had simply been laid out on the Government of India Survey map, the details of which were by no means accurate, it was no small task trying to reconcile the actual boundaries to be cut with those on the plan. With the aid of a prismatic compass, boundaries were demarcated, and it is interesting to note that in the aggregate the blocks surveyed in this manner proved extraordinarily accurate.

Edmiston, after finding his land and doing a certain amount of demarcation work, returned to the Nilgiris, and from then on right through the first



monsoon, Marsh, Loam and myself were left alone. The monsoon proved to be a very continuous and heavy one, and the discomforts endured by all of us living in temporary houses with mud floors and thatched roofs, were very considerable. Every room leaked; there were no doors and windows, the wet and mist soaked into everything in the building, and the only possible way of maintaining any sort of dryness was to keep a large fire burning on the floor in the middle of the room. This was done continually, and frequently the smoke was so heavy that the only place to sit was on the floor, and even then one's eyes were full of it. It is a curious fact that the Kaders, when asked to thatch our house, protested against the steep pitched roof proposed by Marsh, pointing out that it was bound to leak, while an almost flat thatched roof like their own would be weather-proof.

Throughout the first year, the servant difficulty was very great. No ordinary low country servant was willing to put up with the great hardships and difficulties entailed by residence in the Anamalais, and it was quite a common happening on a Monday morning to wake up and find our whole staff had bolted at daybreak with the shandy coolies, and that we were left to fend for ourselves until such time as it was possible to obtain other servants. On these occasions Loam proved a tower of strength. A born cook, he practically always did the whole of his own cooking on a series of kerosine oil tins built into the stone work in the form of ovens along the inside edge of his verandah where he used to sit in a chair

C. A. Marsh

attending to the cooking of the day. He was always willing to come to our rescue, and used to feed us until such time as a new lot of servants could be induced to face the devils and dangers of the terrible Anamalai forests.



## *Chapter 4: Roads*

Loam's first job was to make a bridle path from Waterfall to Paralai. When we first came up to the District we found a trace which had been lock spitted by Mr. Gass, D.F.O., from Waterfall up practically to the swami coil at the top of the ghat. This trace formed the foundation for Loam's work, and to begin with he started from where it ended and carried a bridle path through to Paralai. Marsh undertook the construction of this work. The following short statement of the work of road making in the District may prove interesting:

### NOTE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GHAT ROAD

In G.O. No. 495 Revenue dated 28.9.1896, the Government expressed their intention to undertake the construction of a main road through the Anamalai forest land and the P.W.D. was requested to arrange for the immediate tracing of such a road with the necessary principal branches. Again, in paragraph 6 of G.O. 694 Revenue dated 4-12-1896, the Government stated that the tracing and the construction of the road were matters to which they attached great importance and must be carried out with as much expedition as possible. Mr. Mathew Loam was accordingly placed on special duty and directed to work under the Superintending Engineer

and also place himself in communication with the Collector of Coimbatore in regard to the lines to be surveyed. The actual work done by Mr. Loam to end of September 1897 is detailed in the statement (extract enclosed) at page 7 of G.O. No. 3321 W dated 29-11-1897. In December 1897 the then Chief Engineer submitted his notes on the opening up of the Anamalai hill tracts, and made certain proposals (extract enclosed) in paragraph 6 of his note which were approved by Government vide G.O. 76 W dated 11th January 1898.

In March 1898, the Chief Engineer suggested among other things, (1) the construction of a bridle path from Aliyar river to Sirikundra, (2) the construction of Auliar road bridge, (3) the construction, metalling and bridging of cart road from Aliyar for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and (4) the tracing and estimating for two alternative routes for cart road from end of road referred to in (3) above to Sirikundra. This was approved by Government and the S. E. was asked to prepare plans and estimates with the least possible delay, vide para 1 of G.O. 781 W dated 23-3-1898. In October 1898, the Chief Engineer inspected the various routes proposed and submitted his notes, vide pages 2 to 5 of G.O. 3209 W dated 15-12-1898. In para 3 (8) of the notes, the Chief Engineer recommended the construction of a cart road from the Aliyar river to Paralai and the construction of bridle-path from Aliyar river to Messrs. Finlay Muir & Co.'s boundary up the Villani valley. This was also approved by Government vide G.O. 3209 W dated 15-12-1898. The following expenditure was approved works

mentioned in the G.Os.:—

(1) Construction of a bridle-path from Aliyar river to Sirikundra	Rs. 25,100	G.O. 960 W dated 13-4-98.
(2) Construction of a rest-house on the Sirikundra road ...	Rs. 7,130	G.O. 2465 W dated 22-9-98.
(3) Forming a metalled road from Vannanthorai to 10¾ miles of the Punachi ghat ...	Rs. 2,78,500	G.O. 115 W dated 20-1-00.
(4) Construction of a bridle-path from Villanar to Valparai ...	Rs. 17,000	G.O. 216 W dated 31-1-00.
(5) Construction of a bridle-path from Monica to Kalianapandal in the Anamalai ...	Rs. 4,500	G.O. 741 W dated 16-3-01.
(6) Forming roads in the Anamalais	Rs. 2,59,000	G.O. 1143 W dated 15-4-01.
Total ...	Rs. 5,91,230	

A supplemental estimate for Rs. 32,000 for improving the first 11 miles of the ghat road was sanctioned in 1901.

The road was completely restored and reopened for traffic in July 1903.

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## ENCLOSURE I

Statement of work done by Mr. Loam, Executive Engineer, on Anamalais roads

<u>Sketch-map</u>			<u>Distance</u>		
From	to	Description of work	M.	Ch.	Remarks
A	B	Ran a trace from Michael's road to Anagundi Pass.	1	17	This was unauthorised, but will eventually be useful.
		Cut a bridle-path 6' wide along above trace.	0	52	
		Lockspitted.	0	45	
C	D	Cleared and improved Prince of Wales ghat so that it can be used as a bridle-path.	7	60	This was also apparently done without orders, but it is eminently useful work.

D	E	Ran a trace of 1 in 12 for bridle-path to avoid an unnecessary rise and fall in the existing path.	1	21
		Cut above trace 3' wide for riding, and lockspitted the rest.	0	42
E	F	Mr. Loam did nothing here except cut a few trees. Mr. Gass, the Forest Officer, cleared this length.		



F	G	Mr. Gass's trace, which Mr. Loam has apparently cut 6' wide with side drains, to serve as a bridle path only.			It is not clear whether Mr. Loam did this or found it already in good order.
G	H	Mr. Loam's new trace. Length from F to H.  Cut 6' wide. Can be converted into a bandy track.	8	0	This is the work Mr. Loam was ordered to do.  He has exceeded his instructions, as he has made it of a sufficiently easy gradient for cart traffic.

I	J	Ran a trace from point on bridle- path last mentioned 1½ miles from Paralai towards Sirikundra through land taken up.	2	0	Mr. Loam is now at work on this. The work was ordered in this office No. 3139 C., dated 9th July 1897.
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## ENCLOSURE II

Proposals by Mr. W. B. DeWinton, Ag. Chief Engineer, December 1897. Approved by Government in G. O. No. 76 W dated 11th Jan. 1898.

"My own opinion is that the requirements above described are necessary for the adequate opening up of this important planting district, and I should be glad to receive instructions to the following effect:—

(1) The preparation of an estimate for a cart-road from the Aliyar river at Vannandorai via Prince of Wales' ghat, Punachi, Paralai and Sirikundra, to a point in the line between G and H on tracing, length about 45 miles, approximate cost Rs. 3,52,000. This road to follow the trace already aligned, with the exception of the section from E to G and slight modifications from D to E. Mr. Garrett to be directed

to select a new alignment, where necessary, on these two sections. The estimate to include the cost of a road bridge across the Auliar.

(2) The immediate erection of the Kallar footbridge across the Aliyar (this has already been ordered) and the immediate improvement of the bridle-path up the ghat from the river to Punachi.

(3) The immediate tracing and construction of a bridle-path for the first 6 miles of the section G to H. Mr. Loam ought to have done this already, if he had obeyed his instructions, but he has traced a line suitable for a cart-road instead.

(4) The alignment of a trace of a cart-road from Paralai to Sirikundra, and onwards, in a loop line to a point between G and H and the construction of a bridle-path along it, which can be converted into a cart-track when funds permit. Mr. Loam is now engaged on the first portion of this. Mr. Garrett should give him general instructions for aligning the remainder."

Mathew Loam, who, as already mentioned, was detailed by Government to make the original surveys for roads in the district, first went up to Mount Stuart to prospect that side of the hills, as he thought it might prove the best way to get up into the District. He went out as far as Ulandi Parai, but came to the conclusion it would not be the best way to proceed, so in December 1896 or January 1897 he went up to the Forest Bungalow on Waterfall Estate, stopping there till early February, when he moved camp to Paralai Rocks.

Loam's instructions appear to have been to trace

and cut a bridle path from the Aliyar River to Sirikundra, but he first traced a bridle path to Paralai, using the already existing path from Waterfall Estate up to the divide, originally traced by Gass, of the Forest Department. The work of cutting this bridle road was undertaken by Carver Marsh. After completing this, Loam started from a point at the present zig on the main road in Paralai to trace his bridle path through Peria Karamalai, Pachaimalai, Nadu Ar, Sirikundra, Sholayar, the Mudis out to the rocks at Udamanparai, and from there back to join a trace he carried down from Paralai to Monica. He built the present P.W.D. Bungalow at Iyerpadi, and had camps on the saddle between Nadu Ar and Kanjimalai and under the Sirikundra grass hill.

He also traced a possible bridle or cart road from the Aliyar River, up the Velloni Pass to the saddle, and then right through the forest to Varatuparai, and up to Valparai Rocks.

In October 1898, De Winton, Chief Engineer, and Garrett, Superintending Engineer of Coimbatore, visited the District to report which trace would make the best cart road into the District, and as already mentioned in De Winton's notes to Government in G.O. No. 76 W dated 11th January 1898, the present trace was decided on.

It is to be observed in these notes that the Chief Engineer says that orders had been passed to erect the Kallar footbridge across the Aliyar River, but this was never done.

When the construction of the cart road was

started, Charles Wood was appointed Engineer in charge of construction, assisted by Messrs. Lutman and Brodie, and Messrs. Mitchell and Mackenzie were given the contract for most of the construction.

Loam went on leave, but he most certainly left his mark on the District. Starting in a vast area of evergreen jungle, with no roads of any sort, and only a few elephant paths through it, and none too accurate maps, he traced a circular road right through the middle of the present planting district, and his trace, whilst of course not perfect, has been followed for many miles by present day cart roads.

When it is remembered that he had no local labour to help him, except now and then a few Kaders, whose knowledge did not extend beyond the main routes through the country, that all his supplies had to be brought right up from Pollachi to his various camps by coolies, that he had to get such labour as he could to help cut the jungle as he traced, and to lockspit his traces, that for half of each year he had heavy south-west monsoon rain to cope with, and living as he had to in camps roughly constructed here and there through the jungle, it is wonderful how well he did his work, and how good his traces have since proved.

As already mentioned, Charles Wood was in charge of the building of the cart road, and this progressed well, and in 1903 was completed from the Aliyar River up to a point beyond the present Monica Estate.

With the exception of the first two miles, which was done by Mr. Abdul Russak Sahib, and the big

bridge at the foot of the ghat, and other bridges up the road, the whole of the work was done by Messrs. Mitchell and Mackenzie. Almost as soon as the road was completed, there occurred a tremendous cloudburst just below Attykutty, with the result some five or more miles of road surface were washed away, and most of the culverts were blocked. It speaks volumes for the work done on the road, that practically none of the revetments or culverts actually went.

In October 1903, H. E. Lord Ampthill. Governor of Madras, visited the District, and officially opened the road. A special bungalow (the present P.W.D. Bungalow), was built at Attykutty for his visit, and I believe this bungalow, constructed of dressed stone, was put up in a month. H. E. drove from Pollachi to Attykutty in a high dogcart with a pair of horses, but found the ghat road so steep and difficult that from there on he rode up. De Winton, the Collector of Coimbatore, and the District Forest Officer met him at the foot of the ghat, and they all came on and stopped with Carver Marsh at the Puthutotam Bungalow which had been hurriedly finished especially to accommodate him. Windle also came up for his visit. After a stay of five days in the District, during which he toured round the small area then under cultivation, he left for a shooting trip to the grass hills, accompanied by Colin Mackenzie, and the party was up there for 6 days, but had very little sport, though they saw quite a lot of game. On two occasions, just when H. E. and Colin were getting up to a herd of bison, they were

disturbed by several policemen coming over the skyline following H. E.

From that day to this the road has hardly been altered at all, and most of the original revetments are still standing. Built many years before the introduction of motor vehicles, it was, of course, not suitable for them, as the corners were too sharp, and the road too narrow; but by degrees the P.W.D. have widened corners and broadened the road itself, making it into the splendid road it now is.

Originally, when the construction of the ghat road was sanctioned, Government instructed the P.W.D. to undertake the work, and when completed to hand it over to the Coimbatore District Board for upkeep; but on representations being made by that body, backed by the Planters, Government agreed to let the P.W.D. continue looking after the road, which they have done ever since.

Carver Marsh was actually in charge of the construction of the road, working under Messrs. Mitchell & Mackenzie, but Colin Mackenzie spent most of his time in the District.





## *Chapter 5: More People came to the District — Note on the Kaders*

During our first monsoon Marsh managed to plant up a small area of 50 acres, partly with plants brought the whole way from the Nilgiris, and partly with seedlings from the nursery that he started as one of the first things after his arrival in the District. The clearing was not much of a success, as the lopping and felling had been very indifferently done, and it was necessary in the succeeding year to do a great deal of lopping and burning, to the detriment of the plants put out.

Time hung somewhat heavily on our hands during this first monsoon, but a great deal of work was done in felling and lopping all the big trees on about four or five acres surrounding our temporary house, and before we finished we became quite expert axemen.

The second people to start opening in the district were Messrs. Finley Muir & Co., Ltd., who sent up Mr. J. A. Cocker as their Manager in 1898. Cocker camped on the Valparai Rocks to begin with, till he was able to make himself a temporary house, and one of his first works was to connect the Government bridle path at Paralai to Valparai. During his tenure as Manager he had several assistants, amongst whom were the two brothers Murray and John Stuart, Fenton and J. S. Scott, the latter of whom eventually became the first Manager

of the Sholayar Estates, and did most of the opening there before his death.

Following Cocker, Mr. A. H. Sharp was manager of Valparai, and did a great deal of the opening out of the coffee and cardamoms on the Valparai and Varatuparai Estates. Scott continued as his assistant for a considerable time.

The next people who came to the District were Martin, Bannatyne and Unwin, all from Ceylon, who came up to inspect four blocks of land which were for sale by Windle and Marsh and which now comprise the Stanmore Co. They naturally stopped with us as there was nowhere else for them to stay, and eventually agreed to purchase the land from the vendors and asked Marsh to fell a small opening on some central spot and to build a temporary house where they could come up and live. Martin had laid out the Monica Estate before he came up to open, in exact clearings, each clearing being 50 acres square with belts between varying from one to five chains in width. He started work by importing a large gang of Singalese felling men. These people, being expert axemen did excellent work, but I believe proved unduly expensive and were not employed after the first year. They were certainly great experts at their job, and I remember Marsh borrowing two of them to fell a tree which seemed as if it must fall across one of his buildings. These axemen after a very careful survey of the tree in question started without any ropes or other help and felled the tree on to the exact spot on which they intended it should fall, well away from the building in question. I had never

previously believed that this could be done.

Martin was the first person who started surface drains in the Anamalais, and in all his original clearings, drains were dug most carefully every 30 or 50 feet. He was also the first person to start tea in the District on any scale, though Windle had planted a small clearing on Paralai Estate consisting of five acres of this product.

When we first started opening the District, it was laid down that the Kaders had the right to collect all minor forest produce on the unopened portions of estates, and we were prevented from growing cardamoms. This product grew well in the District, and it was not long before it was realised that the cultivation of cardamoms would prove a very paying proposition. Windle approached Government, asking that permission might be granted for the opening of this crop, and in 1899 and 1900 great arguments took place between the estate owners and Government with reference to this point. The Forest Department pointed out that the Kaders had always had the right to collect minor forest produce and it would be a hardship if this were stopped, and the planters pointed out that, whilst they did not in any way wish to interfere with the prerogative of the Kaders and other jungle men to collect minor forest produce throughout the jungles not in occupation and not planted with cardamoms, they did consider that they should have the right to plant this crop on their own land. Eventually in December 1900, the Forest Member, the Hon. Mr. Weir, visited the Anamalais to go personally into the matter.

Paralai Estate had tentatively opened about 100 acres for this crop and had pitted and roaded it ready to plant, leaving, during the course of the opening such wild cardamoms as existed. The Forest Member inspected this clearing and as a result of his recommendations Government allowed cardamoms to be cultivated in the District. The first methods of doing this consisted of digging out indigenous cardamoms found throughout the forests and using them for planting the clearings, but at a later date seed was obtained from Ceylon and elsewhere, proper nurseries were made, and the present considerable area of cardamoms in the Anamalais is almost entirely planted in this way. By degrees the Kaders, who, when we first arrived, refused to come near us, began to come in, and were prepared to do certain work on the estates, such as cutting boundaries, etc. To begin with their womenfolk kept entirely away from the estates, but as they began to have confidence in us, they all came out and worked for us, and in those days they were an extraordinarily cheery crowd, always happy and laughing, and ready and willing to enter into any joke that was going. I remember a little incident which showed their independence of character and lack of experience of Europeans. Cocker who had some of them working with him, sent over a letter late one evening to Marsh by the hands of a couple of Kaders. They arrived at the bungalow when we were at dinner and walked straight into the dining room. Marsh, who was naturally somewhat surprised, sarcastically suggested that they should

sit down on two chairs, which they immediately did, much to his astonishment and amusement. I think had he asked them to sit down and dine with us they would have been only too willing to do so.

They suffered in those days terribly from smallpox, to which they seemed particularly addicted, and on several occasions I have seen whole families wiped out by this disease. On one occasion, when Vincent had 40 or 50 of them living on the Paralai Rocks they were attacked by smallpox and fully 75% of them died, despite everything we could do to try and save them. It was not so many years afterwards that I managed to get them to agree to be vaccinated, since when they have not apparently suffered from this disease.

When we first got to know the Kaders they were more or less divided up in two or three communities, each ruled by a Moopen or Head man, but the head of the whole tribe was undoubtedly Satari Moopen. This old man, who was a great character, was practically king, and in the case of dispute, his word was law, and nobody ever attempted to contradict anything he decided should be done. He must have been an old man when we first came, as one of the Halls, then resident in the Nelliampathies, remembered him falling down a tree in that District many years before when after honey, and breaking his thigh, which, although it was mended as carefully as possible, left him lame for the rest of his life.

He lived for a great many years after we first came to the District, and from what it was possible to estimate, must have been nearly 80 when he

eventually died, quite blind and looked after by his grandchildren. His knowledge of folk-lore was quite remarkable; and Vincent, who was a great linguist, and who learnt the Kader language, would listen to him relating the history of South India from early days up to the time of the conquest by the English, and his facts and figures were extraordinarily accurate. We tried to get Vincent to write out this history as given by him, but it was never done, and in these days the present Kaders seem to have lost the interest in the folk-lore of their forebears.

Of their worship, little seems to be known, but I conclude they are some form of Hindu, but they have their own private gods and goddesses, one of which is Kaliana, who is said to be a beautiful white girl who lives at the top of the falls at Kalianapandal. I believe the myth of a woman living on a waterfall is almost universal and is found throughout such distant countries as North and South America, Africa, and India.

Their marriage customs are in some ways peculiar, as either party can divorce the other at will if they do not like each other, and there appeared to be no disgrace attached to either as a result of the divorce. Divorcees and widows can, and often do, remarry. The marriage ceremony I never witnessed, but the bridegroom had to build a new house for himself and his bride, and the last part of the ceremony consists of the bride bolting as hard as she can, and the bridegroom catching her and bringing her into the new house.



They have a curious custom which is now dying out of cutting their front teeth into sharp points. Thurston in his book of "Castes and Creeds in South India" mentioned that this was a wedding custom, but I do not think this is quite accurate, as quite young children had it done to them. I once witnessed the cutting of the teeth, and it appeared to be a most painful proceeding. The person's head, on whose teeth, the operation was to be performed, was firmly held between the knees of one man, while another took a small knife and wooden mallet and started to chip the teeth away, the knife frequently slipping and cutting the gums of the wretched patient. The result was a good deal of blood and a very much swollen face, but the teeth did not appear to suffer, and I have seen old men and women with apparently good teeth, despite the fact that they had been cut in points at some period of their life.

Another peculiar marriage custom is, that the bridegroom has to cut a peculiar-shaped hair comb for his bride to be given on the marriage day. These combs, which are two to three inches broad, are made of bamboo with various circles and triangles etched on their top half. Vincent asked the Kaders whether these had any significance, but they informed him that they were simply cut at the will of the man doing them, without any rules as to how they should be done; yet Thurston, to whom Vincent sent a series of these combs, found they were exactly the same as those in use in Fiji, the only difference being that the Fijian use certain rules for the making of their combs.



Another curious custom of the Kaders, which is, I believe, unknown to any other forest tribe in South India, is their method of tree climbing. They make hard wood pegs about six to eight inches long, and start to work by driving one of these into the tree three or four feet from the ground. To this is attached a long thin stick, and the man then gets on to the first peg and balances himself on it while he drives another in as high up as is convenient. He will go up any tree, however large, by this method; and it is a wonderful sight to see him 40 or 50 feet from the ground balancing with one foot on the top peg and the other looped under the rail below, using both hands to drive a peg in as high as he can reach—a feat which I do not think any civilised man would care to attempt. They climb trees of a large size simply to obtain a few annas' worth of honey, and they would rather do this than work on an estate.



## *Chapter 6: Government Closes Land for Further Planting*

By degrees the Anamalais was more and more opened, and it is interesting to note that by 1900 the following areas had been opened in cultivation:—

<i>Name of Estate</i>			<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Tea</i>	<i>Cardamoms</i>
Paralai	...	...	300	20	133
Castlecroft	...	...	233		
Block No. 20	...		90		
Finlay Muirs Estates			400		550
Monica	...	...		200	50
Upper Stanmore	...		50	50	40
Lower Stanmore	...			125	20
Sirukunda	...	...		50	
Cinnamon Grove (Iyerpadi)			82		
			1,155	545	843

This perhaps was rather remarkable, considering that it was only in 1897 that the first planter entered this otherwise uninhabited country, and that in three

years a total of 2,543 acres had been planted. As the result of the following report of the Conservator of Forests to Government, they refused to give out any further land after the first application had been granted, and it was very many years before they agreed to reconsider their decision and again throw open the rest of the forest for the purpose of planting. Whether the original Conservator was right or wrong is a question which will never probably be satisfactorily decided. Without the planters, no cart road would have been built, no facilities for the export of timber would have existed, and the high capital cost entailed by making an adequate cart road into the Anamalais, costing as it did many lakhs of rupees, would have proved a serious question for the Forest Department.

The Conservator of Forests in letter after letter to Government, said that he considered that in no case should further land be leased out, and he put it on record that in his opinion the land was extremely valuable from the forest point of view, and actually estimated that it was worth Rs. 1,000 per acre for that purpose.

In 1899, Government appointed Mr. Latham to make a survey of the Anamalais forests for the purpose of ascertaining the value of planting timber in the District, and Mr. Latham undertook this work, and was in the Anamalais for a considerable period. He reported the number of trees of each species to be found in his survey blocks, and as a result of this, and the strong insistence of the value of the timber by the then Conservator of Forests, in 1900

## Government Closes Land for Further Planting

Government stopped giving out any further land for plantation purposes. As early as 1898 the Collector of Coimbatore proposed to the Board that all grants of further land be stopped, so even as early as two years after the Anamalais were thrown open for plantation purposes, Government wished to stop any further land being opened.

In the Board of Revenue proceedings dated 16th February 1899, the following letter from F. Lodge, Esq., the District Forest Officer, Southern Circle, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 9th April 1898, was read:—

“If in respect of considering annually the present stock and the minimum yield per acre one considers the continuity of the yield, it works out at Rs. 70, as follows:—

“With a heavy rainfall in these forests growth must be fairly rapid. I estimate that it takes 80 years for trees to attain maturity. At 112 trees per acre  $\frac{1}{4}$  would attain maturity; the minimum annual outturn would be  $200 \times 1.4$ , which equals 280 cubic feet, and the net revenue at annas four per cubic foot equals Rs. 70. This is excluding the trees of unknown quality, soft wood trees, and minor products such as mace, cinchona, gamboge, etc., which, if properly worked, ought to yield considerable revenue. It is also clear that a number of valuable species per acre would remain unchanged, whereas, under proper treatment, their number would increase. The figure arrived at, Rs. 70, may therefore be taken as a minimum net revenue per acre per annum, provided the products can be brought to market. If I have

over-estimated, I trust that the Acting Conservator in forwarding this note will enter his estimate, as he saw the forests at the same time as I did.

"The net annual revenue from the whole area would then amount to Rs. 21 crores, that is to say, Rs. 70 per acre on 65,000 acres, less 16,000 acres already leased out for plantations, and say, 19,000 acres of grass and rock (from what I saw, 9,000 would be more correct, but I wish to under- rather than overestimate revenue). The development of the forests would naturally take some time, and it would be fully 10 years before the whole area can be worked, as roads would have to be made, but the ultimate yield would justify the large extra expenditure on roads; whereas the 3 lakhs which I understand are to be spent on a main road to the coffee estates will return Government 3% of the revenue realisable from the forests.

"Thus, from a revenue point of view, it is distinctly preferable to keep the hills under forest. There are of course several points to be considered, such as opening out the country and encouraging local industries, employment of labour, etc., and though much may be said in this connection in favour of coffee estates, there is almost as much to be said in favour of forest estates."

The then Conservator of Forests, Mr. Brazier, subsequently refers in letters to Government to the fact that the planting of coffee is very much an experiment, and that in his opinion, with a rainfall of 150 inches, once the humus has been washed off the top soil, it is very doubtful whether coffee will be a

## Government Closes Land for Further Planting

permanent crop, and it seems probable that the land will be handed back to Government as washed out rocky hill-sides, instead of the magnificent virgin jungle which was handed over to the planters. This would seem to prove that the Conservator of Forests had very little knowledge of planting, as after nearly 40 years the coffee in the Anamalais is, if anything, in a more flourishing condition than when first planted, at least in those estates which have not turned their coffee into tea.

As already mentioned, due to the insistence of these two officers, Government closed all land for further planting, but apparently no steps were ever taken to make either the Conservator or District Forest Officer prove that they were right in their enormous estimate of the value of the land. Actually, a few iron-wood trees were felled and stored close to the cart road, but the majority of these were allowed to rot, though some were exported from the forest to the railway, where they were said to have been rejected, but whether this is true or not, history does not relate.

The first fallacy in the estimate was that on an average over the District there were not 112 valuable trees per acre, nor probably a tenth of that number; and the second is that the Pollachi price of 10 or 12 annas per cubic foot would not show a profit of 4 annas, but a loss which would probably have stopped any use ever being made of the forests as they existed in those days. At the present time, due to the facilities now existing for the export of timber, the Forest Department are working on a fairly large

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scale on the export of sleepers for the railways, and this is, I understand, proving a fairly profitable business, but it is a very different matter to do this now that the District has been opened and explored by the planters, than it would have been had the Forest Department had to do the whole of the road-making and opening on their own account.





*Chapter 7: Colin  
Mackenzie — The First  
Expedition to the Grass Hills  
— The First Woman in the  
District — 1903. Anamalai  
Planters Association —  
1911. Government Reopens  
Land*

As time went on more and more people visited the District. Charles Wood, who has been previously mentioned in this history, was a man of considerable talent, with a great knowledge of all sorts of subjects amongst which was botany. His headquarters were at Kootoor, and Colin Mackenzie also had a temporary house there, and most evenings they used to go for a walk after tea. They always went the same way, and passed a certain tree, and every evening Wood would ask Colin its name, and every evening the same performance took place. Colin would stop, seize his beard with one hand, pull bits

of it, and comb it out, and say, "Of course I know, now let me think," but every evening Charles Wood had to tell him the name.

We used to see a lot of Wood, and his assistants Lutman and Brodie, and they formed a great addition to our small community.

Colin Mackenzie was at that time one of the best known Planters in South India. Tall, slight, with abnormally long body and arms, he was a great character in the hunting field at Ooty, and to see him in his later days when I knew him, galloping down the steepest hills, always mounted on ponies not up to his weight, with his beard flying out on both sides of his head, was a sight to make the timid tremble. Nothing daunted him, and nothing stopped him, and even towards the end, when he was an old man, he refused to go to the meets by car, and always rode.

When Carver Marsh first went to the Anamalais, Colin gave him a rough sketch map showing his camp sites on the grass hills, and amongst them was one on the top of Peria Karamalai Hill. On the first occasion of Colin's visit to Paralai, we went up to the top of Paralai Rocks after tea one evening, and there Carver drew him out on the question of his map, and pulled his leg about having a camp on top of Peria Karamalai, where there is no water, and a camp would have been impossible. Of course Colin had mistaken the name of the hill, but he would not admit it, and after much pulling and combing of his beard, he assured us he had had his camp there, giving as the reason for it that he did not want to

disturb the grass hills by camping on them.

One of the first things that we tried to do was to find a way up to the grass hills, and during the first monsoon, despite the fact that we had been having heavy rain, Marsh decided one morning that as there appeared to be a break, and it was probable we were in for ten days' fine weather, we would try to get to the top of Peria Anamalai hill next morning. We had no Kaders at the time with us, but borrowed an old rather useless Kader and a Pulliah from Loam. Neither of them knew the way beyond a certain point, however we set out at 6 A.M., armed with an 8-bore rifle and a small weapon, with a few sandwiches and the two guides. All went well to begin with when it began to rain, but we carried on and made our way to the foot of the precipice on the western side, through about two miles of the most terrible bamboo scrub I have ever seen. Through this we clambered. The two jungle men were light, and walked over it, Marsh who was not very heavy was also able to go over most of it, but my big weight dragged me into it at every step. We arrived at the foot of the precipice, hot, wet and covered with leeches, but still Marsh insisted upon going on, and we climbed the knife ridge up the western end to the top, in one place only being able to proceed by one of the jungle man climbing on to my shoulders and so getting on to the ledge above, where he tied a cloth and so we pulled ourselves up. Arriving at the top it was so misty that one could not see a yard. It was raining hard and blowing a gale, and it looked as if the two jungle men would collapse and die, and it was

only by pouring the little whisky we had in a flask down their throats that we got them going again. We got back late that night, and you can imagine what the journey was like, when I tell you we chose a five-inch monsoon day on which to make it.

After monsoon we made another attempt. Instead of going up Peria-Anamalai we made for the grass hills in the place where the path now comes out. We were lucky to have some decent jungle people with us, and after a lot of prospecting, managed to get up to the grass hills, where we made a small camp and stopped two or three days exploring all the higher parts of the country. Somewhere about the end of that year, Dante Hodson and Church came up and stopped with Carver, and we took them up to the grass hills, having the most comfortable camp on the edge of the grass where one first comes up. We had cleared the path fairly thoroughly by then, and managed to get pack-bullocks to carry our kit. Game was plentiful though we saw very few bison worth shooting, though actually Hodson and Church got a good bull each.

By degrees we worked our way up on to the frontier at Peratamalai where we pitched our camp consisting of two small tents. Next morning, a really howling north-east monsoon started, and we were held up in our camp for four or five days quite unable to move, as we had no knowledge whatever of the country and could not see a yard in front of us. We had not amongst us even a pack of cards or a book, and I remember, we were terribly bored.

Eventually we managed to find our way back into the Konalar, where our central camp was.

The first Planter's wife that ever visited this District was Mrs. Bannatine, who came up with him shortly after they were married, followed by Mrs. Fenton who came out as a bride from England. They must have found the country extraordinarily rough and difficult to live in, but both seemed able to cope with the difficulties and appeared happy.

After Fenton's departure, Watts succeeded. He had been for many years in this country as a planter in Mysore, Coorg and the Nelliampathies, and at one time had been in charge of James Finlay's estates in the latter District, and had opened a great deal of land for them. When we knew him, he was an elderly man. He had a curious habit of always having two or three coolies with him wherever he went, one carrying an umbrella, another a walking stick, and the third something else. I do not think he ever went round the estate without at least one or two such henchmen following him. The District extended by degrees, but it looked as if it had come to very much a dead end after the first eight or nine years, as Government refused to give out any further land, and at one time it looked as if it might end by being a small isolated district with very few inhabitants and a very small acreage under cultivation. After Sharp left to return to the High Range, he was succeeded by George L. Duncan.

The Anamalais Planters' Association was first started at an informal meeting convened by Mr. G. L. Duncan at the Valparai bungalow on the

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13th June 1903. The following gentlemen were present:—

Mr. P. W. E. Watts,

Mr. G. L. Duncan,

Mr. C. R. T. Congreve,

Mr. O. A. Bannatine,

Mr. C. A. Marsh.

It was proposed by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Bannatine that a District Association should be formed, to be called the Anamalai Planters' Association. Mr. O. A. Bannatine took the Chair at this meeting, and Mr. C. A. Marsh was appointed first Honorary Secretary. The original labour rule, which has been in force ever since that date, was first introduced at that meeting, when the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Bannatine and seconded by Mr. Duncan, was carried unanimously: "That in the event of any dispute arising regarding local labour the maistry bringing up the coolies has the first claim on their services."

Although many years have lapsed since that date, the rule seems to have been very little altered.

The first General Meeting of the Association was held at Valparai on 11th July 1903, at which the following were present:—

Mr. Duncan,

Mr. Congreve,

Mr. Watts,



Mr. Marsh,  
Mr. Windle,  
Mr. Scott,  
Mr. Vincent.

Mr. Windle took the Chair. The Honorary Secretary reported that from all he had communicated with regarding membership, he had received a favourable reply. The rules and bye-laws of the Association, which had been drawn out, were then gone into and adopted, and the Honorary Secretary was asked to circularise them. The question of representation at the Annual General Meeting of the Upasi was brought up, and the Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. Hodgson had agreed to act as delegate. It is curious to note that at the second meeting of the Association, the question of a harbour on the West Coast had already come up, and this Association were very strongly in support of it.

As before mentioned, in October 1903 His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Lord Ampthill, visited the District and opened the road. The road had actually been opened for traffic some time previously, but due to a cloudburst, enormous damage had been done and large sections of the lower part of the ghat had been more or less washed away, and it was only a short time before the visit of His Excellency that the road had been repaired. His Excellency opened the Meeting of the Planters at the Monica Bungalow at which various points were put before him for his consideration. The question of the



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leases was brought up, and I append a copy of the address that was presented to His Excellency and of his reply, as well as the notes made at a further, and entirely informal, meeting at which he was present in the District.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT  
HON'BLE ARTHUR OLIVER VILLIERS,  
BARON AMPHILL, G.C.I.E.,  
GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the Representatives of the Anamalai Planters' Association, have great pleasure in heartily welcoming Your Excellency on the occasion of the first visit paid by a Governor of Madras to these Hills, and we are encouraged, by the sympathetic attitude which you have shown when enquiring into local conditions and industries, to put before you our suggestions for the further encouragement of planting in this—the youngest, and, we venture to say, the most promising—District, which, nevertheless, is suffering, in common with all others, from the present Coffee crisis caused by over-production in Brazil.

In a previous Address to Your Excellency on the occasion of your Excellency's visit to Coimbatore, we mentioned briefly the progress made by this District up to that time. We have now to record the

practical completion of the Ghaut Road and its re-opening after the damage done by the unprecedented storm of December last.

We would also bring to your Excellency's notice the progress made in production.

Exclusive of the Waverley and Waterfall Estates, in the Season 1900-01, some  $1\frac{3}{4}$  tons of Coffee were sent off; in 1901-02,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  tons, and last season 1902-03, 74 tons were harvested.

The crop now on the trees is estimated at 136 tons, with every prospect of a steady increase in the future.

Cardamom crops for the last two seasons are: 1901-02 1,300 lbs.; for 1902-03, 18,515 lbs.; and the crop now coming forward is estimated at 34,500 lbs.

Tea has not yet been manufactured, but a large factory is now in course of erection on Monica Estate.

This season's crop is estimated at 50,000 lbs., and the following crop at 150,000 lbs.

Cinchona and rubber show promising growths.

We beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that, in the acute struggle for planting existence, we find ourselves handicapped by certain stringent terms in our leases. Feeling sure, as we do, that it is Your Excellency's desire to assist the Planting Industry in all reasonable ways, we venture to ask for a revision of the leases on the following points:-

(1) *Prohibition of Free Trade in Timber from Leased Land.*— By Section 4 of the Lease, the Lessee is prohibited from sending any timber beyond the

Anamalai Forest limits, except on payment of a heavy seignorage, and Section 3 seems intended to prevent the cutting of any trees, except for the purposes of clearing for Cultivation or Buildings. Section 9 prohibits the cutting of any trees, in the lessee's unopened land, of a certain class, named in Schedule 4. Most of these trees are deciduous and do not exist in our forests, but we would ask for the omission from the Schedule of *Artocarpus Hirsuta* and *Calophyllum Elatium*, if not for the withdrawal of the Schedule. And, in asking permission to cut and trade freely in timber from our own lands, we would point that this would involve the withdrawal of Section 14 which gives Government rights over trees in the "excepted" list. We consider that the permission now asked for would lead to a very appreciable Ghaut. Traffic, and assist us also by giving return loads to carts bringing up grain when crop is not available.

(2) *Minor Forest Produce*.—Section 5 prohibits Lessee from trading in articles of minor Forest Produce from his own land. We respectfully ask that the right in these articles may be vested in the lessee, as is usual elsewhere.

(3) *Plantation Products*.—We would suggest that Rubber be included, and that Cardamoms, as already stipulated, be also added.

(4) *Rents*.—As the question of remission of Assessment has been taken up by the United Planters' Association, and will, no doubt, come before your Excellency in due course, we will not touch upon this point here.

It is true that the terms of the leases, as they now stand, were agreed to by the lessees when they entered into possession, but neither lessees nor lessor could then foresee the present straits of the Planting Industry.

(5) In the reply to our former petition, Your Excellency agreed that the construction of branch roads was necessary, though it might not be possible to provide money for that purpose as fast as we could wish. We fully recognise this, and propose that a Branch Bandy Road be taken from Paralai through Puthutotam, Castlecroft, and Upper Stanmore, joining up with the present Government Bandy Road at Monica, and (2) that this Road be linked up by a Bridle Path to where the present Sirikundra Road now ends; (3) that the Kalianapandal bridle-path be widened into a Bandy Road.

We would point out that these Roads, if cut, would serve some 1,980 acres of cultivated land which, at present, cannot use the Government Bandy Road.

We venture to express our strong desire that the excellent Ghaut Road now made may not be handed over to the District Board, but continue to be kept up by the P.W.D. The handing over of the Road was originally contemplated in G.O. Revenue, dated 28th September, 1896, but we believe we are correct in stating that the District Board is without Funds, which would enable it to do any sort of justice to the up-keep necessary, and a failure would replace us in our old position of depending entirely on cooly and

bullock transport, whilst the Expenditure in making the Ghaut Road would have been in vain. Moreover, in paragraph 2 of Resolution, Forest, No. 466-A, dated 3rd October 1896, it is evident that Government intended immediate construction of the Road, and recognized that "the opening out of the tract" depended greatly upon this construction. We venture to think, therefore, that we, who have worked for over six years without the assistance of that road may fairly ask that a sufficient provision may be made for its upkeep or that it may remain in the hands of the P.W.D.

His Excellency's Reply:—

GENTLEMEN,— One of my principal objects in my coming to Coimbatore was to glean information from those who are personally acquainted with the needs of the District, and I am therefore glad to have met you and to have had this opportunity of hearing you. I am sadly aware that the planters of Southern India are in none too prosperous a condition, and this naturally inclines me to listen with readiness and sympathy to their representations. The remarks you have made are therefore thoroughly appropriate to this occasion which you have chosen for offering me a welcome for which I heartily thank you.

I am glad to find that you appreciate the policy of opening up the Anamalai Hills and that fair progress has been made in planting operations in the lands already leased out. The ghat cart road has unfortunately suffered heavy damage owing to exceptional rains, but funds have been sanctioned for repairing the road. The construction of branch roads

is no doubt, as you say, necessary for the expansion of planting, and your request that the necessary branch road should be laid out and the right-of-way over other leased lands acquired at an early date in order to obviate unnecessarily heavy expenditure on compensation appears to be reasonable and shall have my careful attention. The construction of the Ghaut road has, however, cost a great deal more than was originally anticipated, and I am afraid that it may not be possible to provide money for the construction of branch roads as fast as you might wish.

You draw my attention in this connection to the question of the interpretation of clause 29 of the agreement which stipulates that the lessee should pay the compensation awarded by the Collector for land acquired for "all or any branch roads" constructed by the lessee in or through the lands of the neighbouring lessees, and you claim as a matter of right to have one right-of-way to the land leased, free of all cost. I have had not sufficient time to examine this question closely but will do so on my return to headquarters.

I shall be glad to do everything in my power towards furthering the extension of local railway enterprise in this Presidency. The way has been pioneered by the Tanjore District Board and I trust that the efforts of the Coimbatore District Board to bring about the construction of a line from Podanur to Dindigul may be crowned with success. The proposals of the District Board to levy the railway cess have been approved by Government, and the



District Board, in endeavouring to interest the investing public in England, is adopting the only course which affords any prospect of the early completion of the project. Its inclusion in the "All India Programme" for many years to come is out of the question. The Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council remarked in his Financial Statement that the requirements for the Capital Expenditure on Railways are growing larger year by year, and that the fulfilment of these requirements threatens to absorb the whole of the Capital resources of the Government of India leaving little or nothing for new construction.

As I remarked yesterday in replying to the address of the landholders of Coimbatore, the Government defers, for the present, making any pronouncement of the choice of route until the surveys have been completed and the opinions of the Railway Companies interested have been considered.

In conclusion, let me assure you once more that it has been a pleasure to me to have met you, and that I shall carefully bear in mind what you have said.

*Copy of notes sent to H.E.'s Private Secretary:—*

*Plantation Products:* His Excellency the Governor, we believe, considered our request that *Rubber* might be included in the schedule of Plantation Products, quite reasonable.

*Cardamoms* were also admitted as such by Government after the Agreements to lease were signed.



We respectfully request that these two products be included in the Schedule when the Leases are drawn up.

*Branch Roads* were fully discussed and put before His Excellency and Mr. de Winton has full details of these.

We sincerely trust His Excellency will find it possible to meet the Planters' wishes in this matter.

We should, however, like to point out that if these roads are to be constructed this year, it is desirable that the works should be commenced at an early date, as such works cannot be embarked upon during the Monsoon.

*Free Trade in Timber.* As His Excellency considered the request for Free Trade in Timber inadmissible, we would urge that at least we be allowed to trade in the timber from our cultivated land, as at present this timber is absolutely wasted, lying rotting where it falls, the Forest Department having no right to remove timber on such lands.

One of our chief objects in making this, we venture to say, most reasonable request, is to facilitate our Transport arrangements, as at present there is great difficulty in obtaining carts, owing to their inability to secure return loads, which would be obviated if this point were conceded.

*Minor Forest Produce.* His Excellency having requested as much further information on this subject as possible, we would with due respect point out that in asking "that the right in these articles be vested in the Lessee, as is usual elsewhere", we did not make this request for the sake of the value of the

Minor Forest Produce itself (which is practically nothing), our sole object being to prevent the Kaders from coming into our Cultivated Clearings and stealing our crops wholesale. Since His Excellency's visit to these Hills, large quantities of Cardamoms have on at least five occasions been stolen from cultivated portions of the Valparai Estate, the loss on this Estate alone being estimated at from two to three thousand pounds, It is not too much to say that if some means cannot be found to prevent these, what might be termed organized raids, it is questionable if Planters will not have to abandon their cultivated Cardamoms. The Kadars' position need not be affected by prohibiting them from coming on to our leased lands, because out of the 80 square miles only 19,000 acres have been eased out to Planters, and of this 19,000 acres, some 4,000 acres are already under Cultivation, and the amount of Minor Forest Produce upon the remaining 15,000 acres can scarcely be worth collecting.

We respectfully suggest that the wholesale way the Kaders have stolen, and are stealing, the Planters' cultivated produce, entirely exonerates Government from any promise they may have made to the Kaders; and we would also point out that when the agreement to Lease was drawn up, Cardamoms were only known as a Minor Forest Product, whereas they are now recognized by Government as a Plantation Product, a contingency that was not allowed for when the Agreement to Lease was made.

The Government having graciously conceded us

the right to cultivate Cardamoms, it is not unreasonable, we think, to pray for some rigorous measures which would protect us from the continued depredations of these Jungle Tribes. In conclusion, we would mention that two Kaders, part of a large Gang, are under arrest, having been caught in the act of conveying a large quantity of Cardamoms from the Varattuparai Estate.

The following figures of the Cultivation in the Anamalais in September 1906 are interesting:

	Opened.	Being opened during Current Season— September 1906.
Paralai ...	580 acres	50 acres
Kaliandepandal ...	150 "	350 "
Upper & Lower Stanmore ...	804 "	50 "
Valparai & Varattuparai ...	1,360 "	250 "
Monica ...	325 "	50 "
Castlecroft (Naduar) ...	512 "	
Korangamudi ...	512 "	
Puthutotam ...	450 "	50 "
Total ...	4,693 acres.	800 acres.

On Iyerpadi about 80 acres had been opened in Coffee but had been abandoned.

In September 1906, H. E. Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Madras, paid a visit to the District, stopping at the Puthutotam Bungalow, and on the 28th he attended an informal meeting on the Planters' Association, at which matters of interest were discussed. H. E. lunched with the Association after this meeting.

In 1909, between the 9th and 19th of June, Mr. R. D. Anstead, the newly appointed Scientific Officer for Plantation Products, visited the District. This was the start of the various Scientific Stations, and of the officers who from then on have worked at problems affecting plantations products directly under the rule of the U.P.A.S.I.; and it certainly marked a great advance in planting history when Mr. Anstead was appointed.

At a meeting held on the 16th February 1910, the Honorary Secretary, Mr. C. H. Brock, reported that at last after thirteen years, the leases for the land held in the District were ready to be issued. It seemed at the time extraordinary that it should have taken so long to get these leases issued, but looking back now there does appear to have been some excuse, inasmuch as in the original agreement to lease it was laid down that the Forest Department had to make a survey of each and every estate, and of the land opened in each every season, which proved in practice to be almost impossible with the staff available for the work; and it was not until the clause dealing with the surveying of the opened

land was altered that the leases could be issued.

In 1911 Government decided at last to throw open more land for plantation purposes in the District, and it was only then that the real development of the District started, but owing to war breaking out in 1914 little was done till after its termination in 1918, after which time development increased very fast, and many new estates came into being.

Sometime about 1915 the District Association were approached by the Dewan of Cochin, Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Bhore regarding the possibility of bringing the then existing tramway, which terminated at Perumbukolam, into the District. This tramway had been in use for some years transporting to the West Coast the magnificent teak and blackwood which abounded along the rivers, and the Cochin Durbar thought it might prove advantageous both to the Cochin State and the Planting Community in this District if it could be extended. In 1915 a deputation consisting of Messrs. Robinson, Simcock, Scott and myself went down to Trichur to interview the Dewan, and were his guests there for several days. The result of the interview appeared satisfactory, and in the following year arrangements were made to have the first survey undertaken, which was completed the same year. Another interview with the Dewan took place in Coimbatore, when Messrs. Marsh, Robinson, Simcock, and myself were present, and subsequent interviews and conferences were held in Ernakulam; but in the end nothing was done.

Since that date there have been constant correspondence and at least three or four interviews with the Cochin and Travancore Governments on the subject of possible roads, and surveys have been done, and there is at the present time a great possibility that ere long a road may be constructed from the District to Cochin Harbour, which will undoubtedly be of great benefit to the District.

It is interesting to note that in 1916 the acreage under cultivation in the district was as follows, and that 21 estates were members of the Anamalai Planters' Association:—

Coffee	...	...	...	2,256 acres
Tea	...	...	...	6,912 "
Cardamoms	...	...	...	2,305 "
Rubber	...	...	...	1,115 "
Rubber and Coffee	...	...	...	421 "
Cinchona	...	...	...	290 "
Other products	...	...	...	18 "
			Total	...
				13,317 acres

In 1927 the Government of Madras decided to alter the old forest leases and in place to substitute *putta* leases, and after some correspondence between Government and the owners of the land this was carried through.

The present Anamalai Club was opened in the same year, and since then has fulfilled a great want in the District. The old Club was pulled down, and the Mudis and the Kaliandepandal Clubs were closed down. The present Club has a good football and cricket ground, a small golf course, and several tennis courts.





# *Chapter 8: The Ropeway — Pykara Hydro-Electric Plant — A. P. A. Present Acreage of Crop*

About 1924-25 considerable transport difficulties began to be experienced. The only available means of transport were country carts, never easy on the somewhat steep gradients of the road, and insufficient in number as traffic increased.

Again it was realised that if anything in the nature of a landslide occurred on the road, the only outlet, the district would be completely cut off for an indefinite period, and with an increasing labour force to feed, this eventuality could not be contemplated.

After many meetings, and largely due to Mr. H. L. Pinches, at that time General Manager of Messrs. James Finlay & Company's interests in South India, a company was incorporated in November 1926 to construct a Ropeway from the district, with an authorised capital of Rs. 7,64,400.

This money being found by the Companies and Estates in the district, Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd., were appointed Secretaries of the company and the registered office is at No. 1, Clive Street, Calcutta.

The original Board of Directors were:

H. L. Pinches (*Chairman*).

C. R. T. Congreve (*Managing Director*).

Sir Fairless Barber (*Director*).

Capt. E. Johnson                      do.

J. S. Nicolls                              do.

T. C. Crawford                        do.

The erection of the Ropeway was under the supervision of Mr. J. Paterson, whose services were lent by Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.

Mr. Paterson who did a very fine piece of work, under great difficulties was the first Engineer Manager and held the post until 1932, when Mr. Simmons took over, and still continues in the post.

When the Ropeway was completed it was decided by the Board that the Company should take over all transport between estates and the rail head in Pollachi, and a fleet of lorries were purchased to deal with transport from the top station of the Ropeway to estates, and a contract made for the transport between the bottom station and Pollachi.

The Ropeway started work in 1928-29 and the tonnage carried during the first year amounted to 15,000 tons. The present day transport amounts to 27,000 tons annually.

The present Lorry Fleet consists of 23 vehicles, most of which have been fitted with Producer Gas Plants manufactured in the Ropeway Company's own Workshop. The plants give an excellent

performance and have reduced the petrol consumption from 14,700 gallons to 400 gallons per annum. During the period since the Ropeway first started the lorry fleet have travelled well over two million miles without injury to any person or other vehicle, a fine record.

Since war broke out the changing over from petrol to gas has been greatly accelerated so as to save as much petrol as possible, and the foregoing figures prove that this has been very efficiently achieved.

The Company have transported very large numbers of railway sleepers for the Forest Department, and have also invested a sum of Rs. 3,70,000 in defence bonds, some of the amount in interest free bonds.

Since its inauguration the Ropeway has proved an unqualified success and has dealt adequately and quickly with all transport to and from the district, and the nightmare of transport (a very real one in the days before its start), has disappeared. This is largely due to the hard work and care exercised by Mr. Simmons, to whose genius is also due the excellent gas producer plants now in use on the lorries belonging to the Company.

The following is a description of the Ropeway drawn up by Mr. Simmons, the Engineer Manager:—

Leaving the Main Road from Pollachi to Anamalai Ghat Road at Mile 38/4, and proceeding along our private road for a distance of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, we come to our Bottom or Vannanthorai Station which is 895 ft. above Sea Level. The Station

consists of a large godown measuring 100 ft. long and 75 ft. wide. This is known as a Terminal Station, the Rope passing round a Tension wheel.

Supposing we take a trip on a Carrier and traverse the full length of the Ropeway, we first pass over flat cultivated land and then cross the Aliyar river. From there we start climbing and cross over the Main Ghat Road at 1289 ft. above sea level. From there onwards, the gradient is steep and we climb rapidly to Velonie Angle Station—elevation 2607 ft. having by this time covered only 3890 yards, and passed over 21 Trestles.

*Velonie Station* is a 42° Angle Station and from here the Rope is driven, to Vannanthorai. It also forms a Terminal Station for the next section to Attakatti.

Leaving Velonie Station, we commence to climb rapidly passing over jungle and boulder strewn country. It is in this section that we have to negotiate the steepest gradient on the whole of the system *viz.*, 1 in 3. At the top of this section which is virtually a side of a precipice we climb to 3390 ft. From the top of this hill, we drop equally steeply down into Attakatti Angle Station—elevation 3104 ft. This Station forms an Angle of 82° and lies in a valley, and is one of the most “difficult” stations on the whole of the scheme.

In recent years, it has been converted to a driving and Terminal Station, driving to Velonie.

On leaving the Station, we continue to climb but not so rapidly, over undulating country, till we arrive at Waterfall Station—elevation 3699 ft.

passing through Thottimodaku Angle Station 139° *en route*. Waterfall is a Double Driving Station of 120° driving on the one side to Attakatti and in the opposite direction to Iyerpady.

At Waterfall we find Ropeway Headquarters where our Office and Workshop and Power House are situated. The latter consists of 187 KW Hydro-Electric Generating Set which transmits its power to Waterfall, Attakatti and Velonie Stations, all sections being electrically driven through Reduction Gearing.

From Waterfall, we proceed to Iyerpady passing over Waterfall and Mount Stuart Tea Estates—the latter providing the highest elevation over which the Ropeway traverses, the maximum elevation being 4572 ft. Over Waterfall Estate we pass over the highest Trestle on the system—which is 120 ft. high.

Immediately after leaving Mount Stuart, the largest clear span—719 yards or say  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile—between Trestles has to be negotiated. This means crossing a huge valley, the Rope itself being some 200 to 300 ft. above ground level.

From here onwards, the Rope travels more or less at the same elevation until reaching Iyerpady or Top Station it drops to 4007 ft.

Iyerpady Station consists of a large godown 150 ft. long and 50 ft. wide. It is at this Station that Tea and other Produce from the District are received from the fleet of lorries; the fleet of lorries consisting of 23 vehicles.

The total No. of Trestles on the system is 90 and altogether 555 Sheaves are in operation.

The total length of the Ropeway is 9.04 miles, the

distance by Road between the Top and Bottom Stations being 20 miles.

Goods the Ropeway carries consists mainly of Exports—Tea, Coffee, Cardamoms, Cinchona Bark and Railway Sleepers; Imports—Rice, Bazaar Goods, Building Materials, Machinery and every kind of merchandise.

At the present time negotiations are being carried out with the Cochin Government regarding a western outlet from Malakiparai Estate to Chalakudi and at long last it looks as if we shall in the course of the next two years have a really good road between these two points. This will make an enormous difference to the amenities of the district, will connect up the district on the west with Cochin Harbour, give an alternative outlet, and probably cheaper transport and living expenses for everybody. The thanks of the district are due to Mr. R. Walker, the Managing Director of the Ropeway for all his hard work in this and many other directions.

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About 1930-32 the Madras Government started the Pykara *Hydro-Electric Plant*, and in 1933-34 brought this power into the district after certain negotiations had taken place with the Companies and Estates.

To begin with only certain factories agreed to take power, as most of them had existing power plants of sorts, mostly of the producer gas type, but by degrees more and more have taken power, and at

the present time 21 factories employ Pykara Power, to say nothing of the township at Valparai, most of the bungalows in the district, the clubs, etc.

Great thanks are due to Sir Henry Howard the Main Chief Electrical Engineer to the Government of Madras who proved his contention that given cheap electrical power more and more people would employ it.

It is difficult in these days to look back to the time when there was no electric light anywhere except in the few estates which had their own electric plants.

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*The Anamalai Planters' Association* has steadily increased in size and importance, and at the present time represents the following acreage:—

Tea	...	26,217·41	Acres.
Coffee	...	2,313·61	do.
Cardamoms	...	3,700·11	do.
Cinchona	...	311·44	do.
Rubber	...	650·00	do.
		<hr/> 33,192·57	do.



Crops harvested during the last year were as follows:—

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Tea	...	17,009,717	Lbs.
Coffee	...	46,009¾	Cwts.
Cardamoms	...	26,287¾	Lbs.
Cinchona	...	89,860	Lbs.
Rubber	...	No figures.	

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It must be remembered that during this year tea restriction has been in force, and a number of Estates have been restricted. The above figures do not include the Government Cinchona Plantations.

It will be seen from the above how this district has expanded since 1900, until it is now the largest in British South India, and second only to the High Range in the whole planting area of South India.



## *Chapter 9: Game*

When we first went up to the Anamalais, there was very little game anywhere, as the jungle was too thick for such beasts as sambhur or jungle sheep; and bison, though present throughout the country, were generally to be found close to some open space such as Paralai, Valparai, Sirikundra, the grass hill behind Nadu Ar, etc.

Elephants infested the whole country between November and March, when the lower slopes of the hills became too hot for them, and when the fires started and the flies got bad. They came up from both the valley below Valparai down towards Cochin, and from the valley below the Mudis.

Huge herds took up their residence in places which suited them, where there was water, bamboo scrub, etc., and it was almost certain that in a walk from Paralai to Nadu Ar one would meet at least one lot somewhere, and often several different herds. I remember on one occasion when we went up to the grass hills locating five separate herds on the way.

These elephants did very little damage to cultivation, except when they slid down a steep slope which happened to be planted up.

Carver Marsh had planted up with plantains a small area of low-lying land on Paralai, close to the jungle, where he also had some large coffee nurseries, and the elephants found these plantains, and night after night they used to return to feed on them, till there was nothing but the roots left, and we sat and watched them kicking out these roots, and splitting them up and eating them. The coffee nursery ceased

to exist, as the herd used to walk backwards and forwards across it daily.

In the jungle beyond this low-lying bit, there was a small sheet rock on the edge of a large block of bamboo scrub, and this was a favourite place for the elephants to spend the day; and we used to go up there and sit in trees close to the bamboo watching the elephants feeding and moving about. On one occasion Marsh and Vincent actually saw a female elephant give birth to its young. The elephants had certain well defined paths which they had probably used for centuries to move about the country, and though the jungle was felled along these paths, the elephants still continued to use them for many years, irrespective of whether they had to pass close to houses or not. One such path went close to the old bungalow on Nadu Ar, and every season elephants used to pass close by during the night when they made their annual migration that way.

When Sirikundra was first opened by Martin, he built a large set of cooly lines in the tea, and round it cut a deep elephant trench. This worked quite all right so long as coolies were in residence; but as, during the ten months they were there, the large trench used to get more or less filled in (owing chiefly to coolies making paths across it), when they went down to the low country, elephants on at least two separate occasions in different years got across the drain and walked right through the building, pulling it down behind them. The wild elephant is naturally a curious creature, and loves going to see what things are; and Loam's camps, with their

corrugated iron roofings, were constantly being pulled down, and the roofing smashed to bits; and one sometimes saw large sheets bent up against the corrugations, with two large holes punched right through by a bull elephant's tusks.

On the upper grass hills bison abounded, and on two separate occasions when sitting on a hill I have counted over 100 beasts, consisting of herds numbering up to 25 animals, solitary bulls, and small lots here and there. The Nilgiri thar is present in enormous numbers, and I have often seen lots of well over 100. The big bucks do not seem to mix with the herds except during the rutting season, which appears to extend from about the middle of May to the end of September.

Marsh and I were up on the hills hundreds of times, sometimes for as long as a month or more, more often for week-ends, and there is not a month in the year that I have not been up, even during the worst monsoon period. I therefore claim to have some knowledge of the thar, and my opinion is that the saddle, which is such a feature of the full-grown buck, is simply a rutting coat. We have been up on the hills in March, and have seen small lots of buck feeding a long way from any herd and have gone up every 15 days after that till the middle of May and have watched the same beasts, always in the same place, slowly growing their saddle, till eventually I shot one of them. My experience seems to show that the grey bars above and below the knees and the bars down each side of the face of any buck prove that he is really a warrantable beast, who will during

the rutting season develop a saddle.

A few very old beasts seem not to lose their saddle, but these appear to be the very old, with a nearly white saddle and black shoulders and rump, and one sees very few of them anywhere.

The deer tribe was almost unknown on the grass hills, and one wonders why, as the country is very similar, both in climate and conditions of grass and shola, to the Kundahs, where sambhur abound. Colin Mackenzie said he thought it might have something to do with the large number of goats there were on the hills, as he said that in Scotland where there were many sheep, deer would not stop; but I have not the requisite knowledge to say if this was so or not. I personally have only seen one sambhur, and one jungle sheep on the grass hills, though I once found a pair of shed horns on a path.

There were always a certain number of panther about the jungle, whose food I conclude mostly consisted of black monkey, as there seem little else for them to eat. A curious point about these panther is the number of black ones. Out of the first thirteen I saw, eleven were black, and it seems difficult to believe that this colouration is simply chance, and not a provision of nature. Even when the panther is of the ordinary spotted variety, the ground colour of their skins is much darker than in the more open country. Seeing that these animals live in dense jungle, where they have to find their food, does it not seem reasonable that their colour scheme should be so arranged as to make them as little visible as possible?

There are very few tiger about, though I fancy every season before the country got too opened up a few came to breed, as in the hot weather one nearly always saw the pugs of a few on the jungle paths, and after Nadu Ar was opened, a couple certainly bred up in the jungles towards the Vellamalai Estate one or two seasons running.

After a good many years, and when a considerable area had been opened, sambhur first started to appear on the western side of the hills, though there had always been a lot down on the Waterfall side, and down about lower Poonachi and all along the lower slopes. By degrees both sambhur and jungle sheep increased in the estates, and at the present time both are a plague, doing damage to shade trees, especially when they are young, and damaging young coffee supplies.

Wild pig were always about more or less from the time we first came to the District, but they came and went in the most curious way, being plentiful for several years at a time, then suddenly entirely vanishing for shorter or longer periods, and then when least expected suddenly turning up once more. I do not know the cause of this, but probably it is a well known habit of the wild pig. When Iyerpadi was first opened, the Manager, one Meenachi Iyer, had a number of white Berkshire pigs, and one of these, a sow, got away and joined a wild boar, and they mated; and for several years after that one used to see wild pigs of every shade of colour from white to the ordinary colour of the wild pig.

Mouse deer were always fairly plentiful in the



District, seeming to like the heavy dark jungle; but one very seldom saw them, as they are very shy, and are more or less nocturnal, I fancy.

When we first came up to the District, bird life was very scarce and one saw and heard but few. The "whistling schoolboy" was always a cheerful friend, and one heard him every morning as soon as the rains started. Then the bronze-winged dove came up, as he still does, to breed every season; the imperial pigeon was always present, the rhinoceros hornbill naturally was common, and during the hot weather the green whistling pigeon used to visit the district.

It was only when a considerable area of the forests was felled that the present large numbers of different small birds seem to have come into the district.

The grey jungle fowl were always with us in considerable numbers, but though one constantly heard the cocks crowing, they were very seldom seen owing to the dense nature of the forest.

Wild cats of various kinds, a few martens, the tree badger, and the scaly ant-eater have always been inhabitants of the District, but most of them are nocturnal in their habits, and are seldom seen. The big red mongoose is also common.





## *Chapter 10: Medical*

When the District first started, one of the things we had to learn about and manage was the health of the labour force, as of course no medical officers were introduced to the District for a long time. To begin with we were faced almost annually with outbreaks of cholera, brought up by the felling men from the West Coast, and in the dried fish of which they are so fond, and insisted on getting somehow.

About September 1898 an outbreak occurred on Nadu Ar, where the first gang of felling men had just started work, and they at once bolted, stopping at Paralai to tell us about it. When asked how many had died, and whether they had buried them, they informed us that two men had died, but that they were both buried. A week later a gang of Boyns went over to cut paths, but returned immediately saying the only building on the estate was full of dead bodies, and that they were not stopping there. Marsh refused to allow me to go over and deal with them, but went himself, taking a small gang of Chuckla coolies who had just come up asking for work. He had a most unpleasant time of it, as there were five or six dead in the house, and they had been there for a week. He eventually filled the house with grass and brush-wood and burned it down.

Sometime in the autumn of 1900 Marsh and I went for a shooting trip over the grass hills. J. R. Vincent, a lad in the early twenties, at that time assistant on Paralai, was left the only European in the District, when a very bad out-break of cholera occurred on Paralai, Puthutotam and Nadu Ar. The

labour forces, consisting almost entirely of West Coast felling men, bolted after a few days, leaving their sick and dead behind them, and Vincent had an awful time, as the only help he had was one Boyn man who stopped behind. He had to dig graves with his own hands, and go himself into the lines to remove the dead, and bury them. On Nadu Ar he found a grass hut, so got the dead out of the lines, placed them in the hut, and burned the lot. I well remember on our return to Paralai about a week later, finding Vincent quite alone on the estate, and still suffering somewhat from his terrible experience.

As time went on we became quite efficient doctors. On one occasion when a new cooly line was being built on Paralai, a man fell from the thatched roof on to the top of the wall, smashing in his head in an awful way. He was brought to the bungalow covered with blood, and of course quite unconscious. Marsh first had to cut his hair off, and then with an ordinary needle and thread we stitched him up, and he entirely recovered. Ordinary fractures of legs and arms were quite common amongst the felling men, but these were treated as simple cases and as a rule the damaged cooly refused to go down to the plains to the Pollachi hospital, and was treated with success by us. On one occasion when Marsh and I were over having lunch with Martin on Monica, a man was brought to the bungalow suffering from the result of an accident while felling; he had been smashed to pieces, his neck, one arm, and several ribs being broken. His maistry was very surprised when Martin informed

him that the man was dying, and that it was impossible to do anything. In fact he died whilst we were trying to find out the extent of the damage.

One day when Marsh, Vincent, and I were in the Paralai bungalow a Kader came up to ask for relief as his second toe was almost rotted off from a snake bite. After careful examination Marsh told him he would have to go to hospital to get the toe amputated as otherwise he would probably die of blood-poisoning. This he refused to do, and instead walked to a small log lying outside, put his toe over it, and cut it off with one blow of his bill hook, and then turned round saying, "now what will you do?" We managed to stop the bleeding, cleaned out the wound with a strong disinfectant, and he went away quite content, and had no further trouble.

A great scourge amongst the Kaders was smallpox, to which they were very susceptible, and which was very largely fatal. On one occasion when there was a large gang living on the Paralai Rocks working for Vincent, an outbreak occurred, due to one man who had been down to the plains returning with the disease on him. Vincent had a very difficult time trying to nurse and doctor them, and fully three quarters of them died despite everything he could do. Many years after, there was a bad outbreak in a small community down at lower Poonachi; only one girl recovered, and she had been vaccinated by some doctor who had come up to Attykutty. On the strength of this, I managed to induce most of the tribe to come and camp on Nadu Ar, whilst I arranged with Government for vaccinators to come

up and vaccinate them all. Practically without exception they all took on both arms, and were in a terrible mess for ten days, but since then so far as I know there has been very little trouble with this disease amongst them. Smallpox continued troublesome for many years after this, however, as it was extremely difficult to get the labour force to be vaccinated even when an outbreak started on any estate. On one occasion on Iyerpadi, Fraser had a lot of trouble, as his labour went on strike when he tried to get them vaccinated during an outbreak in his lines. By degrees however labour began to realise the benefit of vaccination, and during Mr. Horrocks's regime, he insisted in vaccinating all children on the estates under his charge.

Malaria was of course one of the chief diseases we had to deal with, and no preventive measures were possible, as at that time it had not been discovered that a mosquito was the carrier, and the generally accepted theory was that it came from a miasma rising from wet places. Coolies believed that the scent of coffee blossom gave them fever, quite a natural conclusion, as mosquitoes used to bite them about the time of the first rains, and the coffee blossom came out ten days after the first showers.

Actually malaria was not bad to begin with, chiefly because most of the labour force in coffee was paid up about the beginning of April, before the rains started, and did not return till about the middle of June after the south-west monsoon had started. It was not really till tea cultivation started, and it became necessary for labour to stop up

through April and May, that malaria became bad.

As the District developed, some companies started their their own hospitals and doctors, but it was not till the great influenza epidemic in 1918 that any real attempt at organising the medical needs of the District were undertaken, and it was only then that the Anamalai Medical Association was formed, and the first fully qualified doctor was engaged with the unanimous consent of the whole of the planters in the District as detailed below.

In the autumn of 1918 the terrible influenza epidemic which swept over the whole world visited this District, and found the District quite unprepared to deal with such a catastrophe, and there were a great many deaths amongst the labour as the result. To the best of my recollection the disease first showed itself on Thonimudi, but it did not take many days for it to become prevalent on almost every estate. For some curious and quite unexplained reason it hardly touched the Pachaimalai Estate, though on the Karamalai and Nadu Ar estates lying on each side of it, the disease was very bad.

In July 1918 the Committee of the Anamalai Planters Association met to consider the inauguration of a separate Medical Association, and (largely, I think, due to the influenza epidemic) this was unanimously agreed to in the following January, when the newly formed association held its first committee meeting, followed by a general meeting, when it was agreed to appoint Captain Vandervert, R.A.M.C., to be the first District Medical Officer. This doctor was in charge of the medical affairs of the



whole District up to July 20th 1919, when he was dismissed; and in October of that year Captain M. J. Murray, R.A.M.C., was appointed to fill his place. Captain Murray held the billet till October 1921, when he was succeeded by Dr. Mumford. Dr. Mumford held the job up to December 1924, but he had gone on leave preparatory to retirement some time before that, and Dr. McEnery, who had been practising as an estate doctor in Assam, came as locum temens. When Dr. Mumford retired this doctor continued as the medical officer for some time.

In June 1925 the following interests resigned from the Medical Association, giving as their reason that the District was now too big for one medical officer to be able to cope properly with it:— The Bombay Burmah, High Forest, Sholayar, Messrs. James Finlay's interests, and the E. & S. J. C. W. Society's interests.

About the beginning of 1926 Mr. Horrocks was appointed as the medical officer for the Association, and he continued to work in that capacity till October 1932 when he resigned. Since then no European doctor has been employed by the Association, but instead they have employed a qualified Parsee doctor.

The present members of the Associations are: the Puthutotam, Korangumudi, Nadu Ar, Vellamalai Estates and the Government Cinchona Plantations.

Up till the outbreak of the present war, the District was divided up into three main groups, one centered on the Mudis with a European doctor in charge, and consisting of the Mudis Estates, the

C. A. Marsh

Sholayar Group, the Karamalai Group, and Stanmore Company; another centered at Valparai, with Dr. Measham in charge, consisting of the estates under the agency of Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd., and the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and the third the old Anamalai Medical Association, renamed the Nadu Ar Medical Combine, consisting of the Vellamalai, Nadu Ar, Puthutotam, Korangumudi and Savamalai Estates.





# Chapter 11: Estate Histories

The histories of estates given in the following pages have been compiled from various sources, and the present owners have been good enough to supplement my personal recollections from their office records.

The history of Nadu Ar is my own; in preparing that of the Stanmore Group I have had the help of Mr. G. B. Reade, Mr. O. M. Hetherington and Mr. E. W. Simcock. Col. C. H. Brock, O.B.E., Mr. J. R. Vincent, Mr. G. Bayzand, and Mr. F. J. B. Diaper have helped me with the notes on the Iyerpadi and Sheikalmudi.

The story of the James Finlay estates has been compiled from notes furnished by Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd., through their General Manager, Mr. E. H. Francis; that of the Mudis Group is by Mr. Eric Johnson, General Manager of the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd.; of Karamalai and Vellamalai by the Agents and Secretaries, Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Calicut; and of the Anamalai Tea Estates Ltd. by Messrs. Francis Peak & Co., Ltd., the Secretaries of the Company in London.

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## ESTATE NAMES

Nearly all the estates in the District take their names from those of hills or rivers marked on the Government maps; but the following have been specially named at one time or another.

*Iyerpadi* is called after Meenachi Iyer, the first manager; the original name of the estate was

Cinnamon Grove, but the estate labour began calling it Iyerpadi as soon as Meenachi Iyer took over, and the name persisted.

*Vellamalai and Pachimalai* (White Hill and Green Hill). There were no prominent points on the map from which these estates could take their names, so, as there were already Karamalai, Oosimalai and Akkamalai at this end of the District, names were invented which would continue the use of *-malai*.

*Puthutotam* (New Estate). At the time Puthutotam was opened, Carver Marsh was in charge of Paralai, and I of Nadu Ar, and we opened the new estate together; we had not given it an official name, but found all the estate labour was referring to it as Puthutotam, so we adopted this.

*Monica* was named by its original owner, Martin, after a member of his family; the coolies have always called it "Chinnatotam."

*Stanmore* is, I believe, called after a house in England belonging to the family of one of the original owners.

*Kanjimalai* is a corruption of "Kanjinali Parai," which is the name given by the Kaders to a small sheet rock close to the estate, from a wild lily which grows there. Kanjinali Parai was too long a name for everyday use, and it was shortened to Kanjimalai.

*Thay Mudi*: the original name of this estate was Udamanparai. When the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation bought land in this part of the District, Udamanparai was already in being, having been opened by Rohan Fowke. Later on Uadamnparai was bought by the Bombay Burmah, and was

renamed Thay Mudi (Mother Hill), to bring its name into line with those of their other estates, all of which had "Mudi" as part of the name.

*Waterfall* and *Waverley*: these estates were named some time in 1860's; Waterfall is from an obvious landmark, but the origin of Waverley has been lost with the passage of time.

## THE FINLAY GROUP

The Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Co., Ltd., was incorporated in 1898, and among the objects of the Company was the acquisition of certain tracts of land, partly cultivated and partly uncultivated or undeveloped, in Southern India and elsewhere.

Six blocks of land were originally taken up in the Anamalais, comprising some 6,000 acres. These blocks, the leases for which date from 1897 and 1898, were purchased from different parties, namely, W. L. Edmiston, W. Rhodes James, Finlay Muir & Co., T. Stanes & Co., A. W. Brodie, and C. Akilandaija. Other blocks were taken up later.

Valparai and Varataparai were the first estates to be opened, and James A. Cocker (the Company's record gives his name as *Cochar*) was engaged in November 1897 as the first Manager. He had had many years previous experience, and had been in charge of a group of estates in Ceylon. In 1898 R. D. Fenton was engaged temporarily for felling at Varataparai, and acted as Assistant there until 1900

when he was transferred to the High Range.

Cocker's stay at Valparai was of short duration, as he left early in 1899, after handing over to A. H. Sharp who was transferred from the High Range. (E. S. Cox, previously Manager of Allakolla Estate in Ceylon, was engaged for the billet at the end of 1898, but left on account of ill-health after two or three months in the District.)

Allen Henry Sharp came out to Travancore in 1880. He had the management of Penshurst Estate, Peermade, from 1882 to 1883, then opened on his own account at Parvithi, Munaar, and managed Mr. Knight's Munaar Valley Estate from 1891 until it was sold to Finlay Muir & Co., after which he worked for the latter. He remained in the Anamalais as Manager of Valparai from 1899 until 1904 when he returned to the High Range.

Sharp was followed by George L. Duncan, who was engaged at the end of 1902 as Assistant for Valparai. Duncan had previously been on Glendano Estate in the Ochterlony Valley. He acted as Manager of Valparai during Sharp's furlough in 1903, was confirmed as Manager in 1904 and remained in the Anamalais—latterly as Group Superintendent—until 1914, when he retired from India.

C. Howland was in charge of Valparai in 1912 and 1913, and was followed by C. K. Pittock 1915-17, G. W. Gowans 1917-20, G. P. White 1920-21, and S. Sladden 1921-29. Thereafter the estate was supervised by the Group Superintendent until 1938, when R. H. C. Allen was appointed Manager.

Apart from J. C. Swayne, who was at Varataparai for a short time during 1900-01, the next assistant after Fenton was John Elliot Scott. Scott started first in Mysore in 1896 on J. E. Middleton's cardamom estates at Cadamaney, Saklaspur, and went to Valparai in 1900. He remained at Valparai (except for a short period in the Nelliampathies in 1908) until 1909 when he was transferred to the High Range, leaving the Company's service shortly after.

Other Assistants at Valparai and Varataparai in the early days were:—

John Stuart and his brother Murray Stuart 1898 for a short time till 1899 when Mr. Sharp took charge.

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Edward Lord	..	..	1905
J. S. B. Wallace	..	..	1908-09
R. F. Vinen	..	..	1909-10
William Havelock	..	..	1910-13
J. E. Sampson	..	..	1912-15
J. H. Jeffrey	..	..	1913-15
L. G. Turner	..	..	1915-17
H. H. Stuart	..	..	1919

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Since 1919 there has been no regular assistant.

J. Hatton Robinson succeeded G. L. Duncan in 1914 as Group Superintendent, and remained as such until the end of 1939.

## KARAKUNDRA

The next estate to be opened up was Karakundra (now known as Velonie). Opening up took place in 1912-13-14, and was carried out by C. Howland. He left in 1915 and was followed by S. Sladden who was Manager until 1921. E. H. Francis was then in charge from 1921 until 1924, being succeeded by B. L. John who continued as Manager until 1929. E. E. Ranicar was the next Manager until 1933, when he handed over to G. L. Jack, who was in charge until 1939. W. B. Cooke is the present Manager.

C. L. Dobbie (from the High Range) was Assistant at Karakundra from 1914 to 1916 and supervised the erection of the factory. He was followed by J. E. Sampson (1916-17), G. P. White (1917-20), II. II. Stuart (1919-22), F. R. P. Imray (1922-25), L. N. E. Harris (1925-26), C. Elsner (1926-28), C. F. Clark (1928-29), H. W. E. S. Rogers (1929-32), P. T. French (1930-32) and others.

## ANALLY AND SELALIPARAI

These estates both appear to have been started in 1914, as no previous mention is made of them in the Company's accounts and records, but the records do not show who was directly in charge of the opening out. [The Anally Estate was opened personally by G. L. Duncan . . . *Author's note.*] J. E. Sampson was at Anally first in 1914-15 and thereafter the estate was



supervised by J. Hatton Robinson.

C. K. Pittock divided his time between Selaliparai and Valparai from 1915 to 1917, and thereafter was full-time Manager of Selaliparai until 1929. C. L. Dobbie was Assistant at Selaliparai from 1916 until March 1917 when he joined the Army. L. C. Blakesley was the next Assistant (1919-23), followed by C. F. Clark (1923-27), W. L. Cowan (1923-24), R. Walker (1925-31) and others.

## PACHAIMALAI

Pachaimalai was opened in 1916-17. A. C. Cotton, it appears, was at this estate for a few months in 1916-17. J. E. Sampson was there as Assistant in 1917-18 and as Manager from 1919 to 1932. He had as Assistants G. W. Russell 1923-1925, H. W. E. S. Rogers 1926-1929, R. D. Squire 1927-1929, and M. S. Begbie 1929-31. C. F. Clark took over charge from Sampson, continuing as Manager until 1935 when he was succeeded by the present Manager, H. H. Stuart.

## PANNIMADE

(Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd.)

This estate was also opened about 1916-17 and J. H. Jeffrey was transferred from Valparai to take charge of the work. H. O. Combe followed Jeffrey in



1917, but resigned the following year owing to ill-health. E. Hardy from Stanmore Estate was then engaged as Manager, and held the appointment until 1935. C. F. Clark then became Manager and remained in charge until 1940.

R. C. E. Vernede and G. Carle were Assistants here for some months in 1919, and E. C. Giddy during 1920-21. H. H. Stuart was transferred from Karakundra in 1922 to act during Hardy's absence on furlough, and remained as Assistant until 1923, when he was transferred to Malakiparai (Cochin).

## URALIKAL AND SELALIPARAI

These estates have come into being in more recent times.

Uralikal is an offshoot of Selaliparai, and contains some 37 acres which were previously part of the latter. Planting started in 1927 and continued until 1933. F. R. P. Imray was in charge from the estate's inception until 1939.

Kadalaparai (Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd.) was opened in 1930, planting started in that year and continuing until 1933. It includes a small area of  $5\frac{3}{4}$  acres (recovered from High Forest Estate) which was planted in 1918. F. C. Clark, R. Walker and H. W. E. S. Rogers were all connected with the opening-up operations, the latter being the present Manager.

## MALAKIPARAI ESTATE

Malakiparai is situated in Cochin and was an offshoot of Pannimade. H. H. Stuart took over 160 acres of tea from Pannimade in December 1923. The extension of the estate started in 1924, and clearings were planted each year from 1924 to 1930. H. H. Stuart was in charge of the estate from its inception in 1923 to May 1935, when he was transferred to Pachaimallai. R. Walker then took over charge and is the present Manager. R. Paterson was assistant for a few months in 1926, A. R. Jack 1927-29, H. C. Dean 1930-32 and Mr. P. T. French 1932-39.

## THE NADU AR ESTATES, LTD.

At the beginning of 1898 a block of land belonging to H. P. Hodgson and a Capt. Allen, one of the original applications, was sold to Mr. Twentyman, senior partner in Messrs. Henry Rogers Sons & Co., Ltd., of Wolverhampton, and Hodgson was asked to arrange for its opening.

He suggested to Marsh that he became Manager, and he agreeing put me on to start opening work towards the end of that year, and we opened 96.58 acres under coffee, planting it up in the monsoon of 1899. For the first six months I lived in tents on the grass hill behind the present bungalow, in the meantime building the small house which is still in use as the clerk's house, and must be one of the

oldest houses still in occupation in the District.

Elephants were very common to begin with, and on several occasions they came all round the tents feeding on the eta scrub which filled the nullah below where the tents were pitched; and for many years subsequently they used to go past the bungalow, which was built close to one of their main paths down to a good feeding ground along the river on the common boundary between Nadu Ar and Vellamalai.

In 1900 another 100·86 acres were opened in coffee. I went home on leave in the autumn of 1900; and Watts, a planter from the Nelliampathies, came and worked on the estate as locum tenens. I had started felling 58 acres for cinchona before going on leave, and Watts completed this clearing, and planted it up. Hodgson, who had hitherto been V.A., ceased to have anything to do with the estate about this time, and Marsh took his place, I becoming Superintendent. In 1903 the present acreage under cardamoms was opened, just under 100 acres being planted up that monsoon; and in 1905 another 150 acres were opened in coffee, followed by 100 acres in 1906.

This completed the estate so far as coffee as concerned. Up to 1907 or 1908, when I went home again on leave, no clerks or field writers had been employed on the estate, all work being done by me alone; but just before I went home a Mr. Scott was engaged as writer in charge.

This Mr. Scott had worked under Marsh on the construction of the ghat road before then. He stayed

on with me for about a year, when he went up to the Nelliampathies. About November 1909, A. C. Cotton, who was afterwards General Manager of the Sholayar Estates, came out to me as creeper, and during my home leave in 1910 he was in charge of the estate under Marsh, but on my return went down to Kaliandepandal to work under A. H. Sharp. E. N. House succeeded him, coming out at the suggestion of Cotton, with whom he had been at school, and he worked under me till he went to his present billet as Manager of the Puthutotam Estate. D. Cooper succeeded him, and helped to open the tea, and was with me till he succeeded Cotton on Karamalai.

The present large wooden bungalow was built in 1910 and 1911, and became my bungalow and was occupied by me till my retirement.

In 1915 it was decided to start opening some of the balance of land in tea, and that season 40½ acres were opened, followed by 58·21 acres in the following season.

Tea continued to be opened in 1916, 1917 and 1918, when the present factory was built. Owing to war conditions the cost of steel had risen enormously, and the factory was therefore constructed of cut stone and timber, as it stands at present.

In 1924 and again in 1927 further tea was opened, and in 1928 43·45 acres till that time under Marogypie coffee was planted in tea.

After the war ended there were various assistants on the estate for short periods, amongst

whom were Hayne, who went on to Assam, De Stroumillo, and Sweet who went on to the Peria Karamalai Company's estates; and then the present Manager, Charles Napier came out, and has been on the estate from then on to the present time. It was about 1927 that the Earl of Shannon and Rodney Dyke were on the estate for a short period; and just before I left, Champion Jones joined as Assistant to Napier, coming from the Nonsuch Estate in the Nilgiris.

The estate was formed into a private company registered in England by the Twentymans in 1927 under the title of the Nadu Ar Estates, Ltd.

The record of rainfall, dating as it does from 1899 to the present time, may be of interest, as I believe it is the oldest complete record now available in the District.

## MONTHLY RAINFALL (in inches) FROM 1899 —

	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
January	—	.67	1.20	.34	.03	.83	—	4.32	.07	.30	3.06	—
February	.50	—	2.00	.03	—	.86	.28	1.20	—	.86	.03	1.94
March	.27	—	1.51	3.11	.28	.96	5.09	.33	1.97	.78	2.80	2.30
April	9.30	4.46	4.03	4.57	2.49	5.28	5.48	1.79	7.83	4.04	7.33	2.71
May	6.24	6.14	5.05	7.61	6.57	10.74	5.41	5.78	5.44	6.17	13.11	9.26
June	28.02	33.71	27.26	12.73	13.66	46.54	32.21	13.37	25.91	22.93	32.09	27.83
July	18.47	50.47	40.35	54.00	58.20	32.62	30.19	40.65	39.45	35.69	41.84	35.21
August	8.24	56.69	18.14	13.00	21.20	18.48	18.92	33.13	53.19	17.61	16.25	46.28
September	13.77	14.80	10.12	18.98	18.84	11.65	11.69	9.50	8.30	10.53	7.59	18.54
October	9.42	5.27	15.57	21.02	14.04	10.52	11.89	19.57	13.64	11.61	14.80	20.70
November	.82	1.45	10.55	1.72	10.71	.16	3.09	3.84	7.78	.32	4.75	13.91
December	.01	1.27	.51	11.00	3.47	—	—	2.31	.61	2.10	3.13	—
Total	95.06	174.93	136.29	148.11	149.49	138.64	124.25	135.79	164.19	112.94	146.78	178.68

MONTHLY RAINFALL (in inches) FROM 1899—*Contd.*

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
January	—	—	—	—	.38	—	.15	.43	.87	1.52	3.04	.74
February	.28	4.20	.07	.20	3.35	.07	4.63	—	.48	.08	—	.27
March	3.42	.68	—	.72	5.42	—	3.70	2.00	1.10	.62	.46	.98
April	1.58	2.62	1.01	2.48	3.03	1.42	3.33	3.33	5.42	4.44	5.76	1.24
May	3.89	11.95	5.95	11.08	4.08	13.35	8.16	19.78	9.28	6.47	1.64	6.25
June	45.50	29.43	22.10	17.43	33.78	41.75	22.40	15.79	22.27	23.02	15.93	21.38
July	46.95	45.88	46.60	43.41	29.07	25.64	17.43	10.13	21.62	54.39	36.52	38.00
August	5.69	28.75	11.65	16.81	24.01	21.71	19.93	19.67	25.21	7.38	25.60	14.14
September	4.83	5.38	7.32	20.99	20.55	17.77	35.39	5.80	17.59	6.86	5.80	9.19
October	8.04	12.17	14.41	11.73	14.33	10.82	11.16	7.06	8.36	9.86	13.23	19.28
November	1.90	6.21	.61	5.54	7.22	4.25	7.64	19.53	3.38	8.46	3.19	7.14
December	2.09	.77	.55	9.03	.83	.02	1.08	.61	.35	.06	.70	.07
Total	124.17	148.04	110.27	139.42	146.05	136.80	135.00	104.13	115.93	123.16	111.87	118.68



## MONTHLY RAINFALL (in inches) FROM 1899—

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
January	.13	.37	.02	.85	.75	.17	.65	.06				2.27
February	—	.13	.30	—	2.54	5.22	.43	1.10		.35	.48	
March	2.97	.31	1.18	1.80	—	1.09	2.68	1.11	3.15	.45	4.12	.07
April	3.69	4.56	1.21	3.93	3.06	8.90	6.23	1.35	3.52	10.87	7.63	3.13
May	4.45	5.64	9.45	4.60	6.06	5.69	5.33	14.20	5.37	25.71	23.90	5.94
June	20.78	28.81	26.53	14.16	32.09	21.51	34.20	20.30	18.81	16.83	34.68	37.66
July	54.00	73.29	24.32	39.60	37.36	26.04	32.17	14.37	22.62	41.02	35.48	20.55
August	41.11	25.83	22.45	32.60	20.16	23.04	16.33	13.20	62.25	28.38	25.40	18.54
September	7.82	14.70	18.93	9.57	17.96	1.20	8.05	18.21	9.85	16.40	29.39	2.47
October	7.27	6.95	16.27	8.75	2.62	7.77	8.36	18.55	3.85	23.68	24.51	11.95
November	1.05	2.55	5.16	1.00	4.80	4.75	3.74	9.55	14.10	9.55	7.02	3.05
December	1.49	.99	3.26	.37	—	.21	.77	2.19	4.30	.22	1.70	—
Total	144.76	164.13	124.03	117.23	127.40	105.59	118.99	116.20	148.02	173.46	204.31	105.63

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# MONTHLY RAINFALL (in inches) FROM 1899—Contd.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	—	—	—	—
January	3.65	.20	—	—	.33	—	1.30				—
February	—	.50	1.00	2.37	.18	—					
March	1.78	5.76	3.82	2.25	1.01	1.38					
April	5.78	.49	10.97	4.33	2.51	5.65					
May	3.78	19.62	3.77	9.97	1.74	15.93					
June	17.25	34.44	19.72	33.34	23.55	31.07					
July	34.20	32.80	37.88	31.37	39.19	37.90					
August	20.80	19.28	15.91	20.82	38.58	33.86					
September	19.00	16.05	7.62	11.67	8.67	10.02					
October	18.75	12.00	19.42	9.60	16.30	4.89					
November	9.45	13.98	3.72	1.51	11.69	20.27					
December	2.15	—	2.85	.61	—	3.05					
Total	136.59	155.12	126.68	127.84	143.75	164.02					

Average Rainfall for 42 Years : 137.20

Heaviest Month : July 1924—93.29 inches

Heaviest Day's Rainfall ever recorded: Aug. 4th 1907—10.00 inches

Heaviest Year : 1933—204.31 inches

## MUDIS GROUP

BY E. JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER.

The Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd. bought a block of 3,000 acres of land in 1912 and started felling Mukottu Mudi in that year; Messrs. Barber & Pascoe were the agents, and John Carless the Manager. R. Fowke made the preliminary arrangements before Carless arrived.

Sholayar Estate and Udamanparai had started in 1912 or 1913, which made it a little easier, but there must have been many difficulties in this pioneering effort, not the least that labour was fed from Castlecroft bazaar and all material had to be carried seven miles through the jungle. Sir Fairless Barber was very particular about types of seed, and practically all of it came from the Dhonjan Dhelakat Syndicate, and most of the seed was Dhonjan. Carless's speciality was nursery work, and paying much attention to pulling plants, and to these two much of the success of these estates is due.

The Corporation's intention was to open up fairly quickly, and to achieve this they split their block into two, and J. A. R. Lloyd joined in January 1916 to open Thoni Mudi. Clearings on the two estates continued until 1919, by which time Mukottu Mudi was about 1,350 and Thoni Mudi 900 acres.

In 1919 F. Simmons, E. Johnson, A. W. F. Mills, and T. Davenport joined the staff, and the

Corporation bought Udamanparai Estate, which consisted of 3,000 acres of land, with 900 acres opened in tea. S. C. Biddell was Manager of this estate and continued until 1921 when he retired to England.

The reserve jungle on one side was named Anai Mudi and F. Simmons was appointed Manager and started to open in 1920 for 1921 planting. 200 acres of tea and 800 acres of jungle on the Sholayar side were named Gajam Mudi, and E. Johnson was made Manager and started to open in 1920. In 1921 Udamanparai Estate was renamed Thay Mudi, and here also further clearings were opened and continued until 1926. Anai Mudi clearings dated from 1921 to 1928, Gajam Mudi with 200 acres 1917-1918 tea, had clearings 1921 to 1923.

In 1920 the staff was augmented by R. V. Hope, E. G. F. Maule, G. W. Wallace; and W. Everett Bownass joined and started the Group Office and Central Stores. Hope and Maule were invalided in 1929 and 1926, Wallace died in 1926 and Bownass was transferred in 1921 to Messrs. Wallace and Company's Mica Mines and was replaced by W. Ogilvy from the Burma Forests.

C. E. Dennys, G. R. Simpson, F. L. Schwind, and R. A. V. Hankin joined in 1921; the last two left in 1932 and 1937. C. J. S. Wynell Mayow, G. A. Le Mesurier, D. A. Sladen, and F. C. Hoskins joined in 1922; S. R. Armitage and E. A. Stone in 1924; R. C. Bulteel in 1925; and L. S. Henderson and N. B. S. Hewett in 1926.

In 1925 Messrs. Barber & Pascoe closed their

agency, and the control was vested in F. Simmons and E. Johnson. Simmons went off to open in Singampatti in 1929 and left the Corporation in 1932. Meanwhile opening and developing had continued, and acreages had reached 4,600 nett tea by 1926.

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Factories started work	Mukottu	1918
	Thay	1920
	Thoni	1923
	Nalla	1925
	Gajam	1928
	Anai	1930

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In 1923 Mukottu Mudi was split into two and Nalla Mudi the new estate was put in charge of Davenport.

Upto about 1925-1926 (that is, in the time of big clearings) malaria was a scourage; young men arriving from England were the worst cases, and there hardly was a time when someone was not ill. Labour too were badly stricken, and any Manager of those days can remember his daily sick in April and May numbering in hundreds. Medical arrangements were improved and three European doctors brought into the District at this time. E. Sandwith Johnson was Chief Medical Officer to Mudis, Sholayar and High Forest. Shortly after this it was discovered that all the malaria precautions had been wrong; and the Ross Institute work began to be felt, and malaria to be stamped out.

It was also about this time that the Mudis and all other Companies who had been opening took stock of the labour position, and brought it under control.

With big clearings, big nurseries, roads to cut, buildings to erect, and cart transport from Pollachi, any Manager opening at the rate of 200 or more acres a year had a busy time, and his preoccupation was the opportunity for maistries and Boyans to reap a good harvest.

Two outstanding events of earlier days on the Mudis were the fire at Gajam Mudi in 1921, and a factory collapse during erection in 1927. The fire started in burning off, and was only put out after four days by the united efforts of about half the labour and half the Europeans in the District.

The factory was an open steel structure and fell when the steel work was all up, killing a number of contractor's men.

In 1926 Godfrey Wallace died; he was perhaps the most popular, efficient and most trusted young man on the staff, and if he had lived would have gone a long way in planting —or indeed in any capacity.

In 1926 and 1928-29 Cardamoms were planted on reserve jungle; these did well for a time but have been mostly destroyed by mosaic and thrips, and the area is now fuel reserve.

The Mudis Club was started in 1924, and until the new Anamalai Club was opened in 1927 it served a useful purpose; it was closed in 1928, the donations, mostly from the partners of Messrs. Wallace Brothers, London, being handed on to the

Anamalai Club.

The Mudis hospital was planned in 1920, and Lord Willingdon laid the foundation stone; it was built in 1923 with 30 beds and has steadily expanded to 80 beds, with X-ray, laboratory and maternity wards.

The football ground was cut in 1921, and the first game of rugger in the Anamalais was played in 1922 or 1923, an epic event and an amusing one, as Soccer players played their game and rugger players theirs; but they all enjoyed it.

Reverting to the actual planting: one of Sir Fairless Barber's strong points was wide planting, and this was  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ , a source of terrific controversy among the staff; much ill-informed criticism was rampant, but if Sir Fairless passed through the Mudis now he might say with justification, "I told you so."

A more questionable feature was the absence of any regularity in shade planting, and leaving this most important matter to the whim of the individual; some estates were planted with Dadaps, some Albizzia, some Grevillia and some nothing at all.

Another point which has always interested the writer is that of cost v. effect. In the earlier days of planting, time, facilities and labour supply did not allow a Manager to hole for every plant, nursery work was far cheaper and so were all costs. In later times things changed and difficulties disappeared, and Managers could do all the various works and make expensive nurseries. Are the newer clearings better than the old ones?



Passing on: W. A. Crommelin and W. J. Stansfeld joined the staff in 1928; T. D. Cardale in 1929; also J. P. M. Hewett (since killed in action); and in 1930 R. V. Holme and F. C. Mallison. In 1934 J. R. Henshaw, A. G. Wilson, and P. Y. Fairbairn; and in 1938 J. C. Fraser was transferred from the Mount Stuart Tea Company. In 1938 G. St. J. Breay joined, and in 1939 P. D. J. Campbell; and last in 1940 H. M. Heath, who had been invalided out of the Army.

Out of thirteen planting staff of the Mudis, at the time of writing 10 have joined or are joining H. M. Forces; they are:—

Lieut. N. B. S. Hewitt, Gunnery Instructor, R.I.N., Bombay.

J. C. Fraser Signal Instructor's Course, Bombay.

P. Y. Fairbairn, 2/15 Punjabs, Malaya.

T. D. Cardale, 8th Punjabs, Delhi.

P. D. J. Campbell, R.I.A.S.C., Bannu.

A. G. Wilson, R.I.A.S.C., Rawalpindi.

J. R. Henshaw, R.E., Bangalore.

W. J. Stansfeld, Cadet School, Bangalore.

G. St. Breay, Cadet School, Bangalore.

E. A. Stone, I.A.R.O., not yet attached.  
and in addition Capt. R. M. Stevenson, r.e., Bangalore.

Capt. C. M. Burnie, I.M.S., T.F.R., awaiting orders.

Of the permanent staff Davenport, Dennys, Simpson, remain; E. F. H. Gerrard and H. C. Edgecombe joined in 1940.

Since the estates ceased opening there is not much to write about; as in all the Anamalais, progress in planting, labour welfare and communication has been steady and rapid. All estates in the Mudis have rebuilt all the original lines and staff quarters; all have efficient schools and crèches. Coincident with this, or following it, labour has become more settled, fitter and efficient, and numbers have been reduced.

The subordinate staff on the estates were gradually formed into a Corporation Service, to work on any estate or in any capacity. They have fixed scales of pay, provident fund, and a flourishing Club.

A co-operative store recognised by Government was started for the staff with the idea that labour should join gradually in the light of experience. It has been successful so far in keeping down prices and providing good material.

During restriction, which hit these estates hard owing to most of the openings dating just before the basic years, labour was maintained and excess crop placed by working up an internal market.

## MOUNT STUART ESTATE

In 1929 Government released further land for planting, and the Mount Stuart Tea Co. was formed and bought a block of land at the top of the Ghaut. A further block in the Tholanar Valley was bought by the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd.

C. A. Marsh

The Mount Stuart Tea Co. was a private one, and the main owners were: Eric Johnson, A. W. F. Mills, A. C. Cotton, Hamish Stuart, T. Davenport, and H. Gerry.

The first clearance for nurseries was supervised by W. H. Martin. Planting was started in 1931, and 1932 and 1933 saw 500 acres planted.

In 1936 the Company was bought up by the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation and in 1938 a factory was erected.

In 1932 J. C. Fraser was appointed Manager and was transferred to B.B.T.C. Ltd. in 1938.

In 1939 the estate became a part of the Bombay Burmah Plantations Ltd., a subsidiary of the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd.

## THE ANAMALAI TEA ESTATES LIMITED

BY A. V. DANAGHER, GENERAL MANAGER.

The Anamalai Tea Estates Ltd., incorporated in the United Kingdom in October, 1912, purchased a block of land of some 1,000 acres, 48 acres already planted in tea, the balance virgin forest. Subsequent purchases brought the acreage up to 1,211 acres, which constitutes the Sholayar Estate.

A later acquisition of 871 acres became Kallyar Estate with its sub-division Eeteear.

The total area under tea is 1,672 acres, all in full bearing.

Mr. J. E. Scott was the first Superintendent, appointed in 1913. He died in October 1919, and was succeeded by Mr. A. C. Cotton, formerly Superintendent of Periakaramallai, in 1920. Mr. Cotton was assassinated in 1939 and his place was taken by Mr. A. V. Danagher, then in charge of Kallyar, but whose engagement as Assistant dates back to 1919. Before entering the Company's service, Mr. Danagher was Captain and Adjutant to the 1/6th Hampshire Regiment, serving on the North-West Frontier.

There are two European Assistants on the property, Messrs. G. Stevens and E. D. G. Strong.

A factory 150 ft. by 40 ft., with three withering lofts, was erected on the Sholayar Division in 1917. Later extended to 300 ft. in 1922. Capacity, 800,000 lbs. made tea, allowing for the great variations in monthly output which are characteristic of the Anamalai District. A second factory, 200 ft. in length, with three withering lofts, was built on the Kallyar Division in 1929, capable of dealing with a crop of 560,000 lbs. made tea.

The two estates are fully equipped with bungalows, houses for the Indian staff, and coolie lines. There is a well appointed hospital under a qualified Indian doctor. The Company also shares in the maintenance of a European doctor.

## THE STANMORE CO., LTD.

Sometime in the spring of 1898 Messrs. E. J. Martin, O. A. Bannatine, and Unwin came over from Ceylon and stopped with Marsh, whilst they examined several blocks of land with the object of possible purchase.

After a thorough inspection they agreed to purchase three blocks now known as the Monica, Stanmore, and Sirikundra Estates, and they were bought in the names of the following:

*Monica*, Messrs. Martin and Col. Harrison;

*Stanmore*, Messrs. Maclure, Bannatine, and several others, amongst whom were probably Sir Walter Kent, Leishing, and Weldon;

*Sirikundra*, Messrs. Martin and Unwin.

Before they left after agreeing to purchase the three blocks, Martin asked Marsh to open a small clearing on Monica for him, and to build a temporary house thereon. This was done, and the land felled is part of the field in which are now situated the Head Office buildings.

Martin came up to settle in the autumn of that year, bringing with him a gang of Singalese felling men, and some carpenters and sawyers. He felled about 100 acres the first year with these Singalese, but finding them too expensive, sent them back to Ceylon.

His first bungalow, built on the site now occupied by the General Manager's bungalow, was constructed entirely of wood, and the work done by

his Singalese carpenters was certainly far better than any done by the West Coast men. This bungalow remained the Manager's quarters till the retirement of Simcock, when it was pulled down, and the present house was built by Ireland Jones.

O. A. Bannatine came up the following year and started opening coffee on Stanmore, building himself a small wooden house on that estate.

A start at opening Sirikundra was made about this period, 50 acres being felled and planted by Martin with the aid of Mr. Vytalingam. This man, who had been with Martin since childhood, was most capable, and he was on this estate for many years after Martin left, working under Simcock.

One set of cooly lines was built in the middle of the first 50-acre clearing, with a huge elephant trench right round it, but despite this, two years running elephants managed to get across the trench pulling down the lines on both occasions.

What must be the record tea bush in South India, if not in the world, now grows on the edge of this old trench, its measurements six months after pruning (just checked by the Manager in March 1941) being  $18\frac{1}{2}' \times 18\frac{1}{2}'$ .

Young Unwin, son of the Unwin who came up to the District originally with Martin, worked for a short period on Monica with Martin.

Martin, a Ceylon Planter of many years experience, was a great believer in draining, and in the first clearings contour drains were most carefully traced and cut every 40 ft. He was also most particular about his lining, which was beautifully

done, and he went so far as to plant with a lining rope, to ensure that every plant was exactly in its right place.

He was the pioneer of tea in the district, pinning his faith to this product despite being told by many planters that the soil was far too light, and the droughts too pronounced for tea to do any good. That he was right has since been most clearly proved.

After a few years, Martin returned to Ceylon, taking on R. D. Fenton as Superintendent on Monica. Fenton had previous knowledge of this District, having spent sometime on Valparai as assistant before going to the High Range.

Shortly after this, Bannatine also left the District, taking a billet in the Nilgiris, and P. Watts was appointed as Superintendent on Stanmore. Watts had been planting for many years in the Nelliampathies.

Fenton went home on leave early in 1900, returning with his wife who was the first lady ever to live in the District.

Simcock came sometime about 1905 or 1906 taking the place of Fenton, and when Watts left shortly afterwards he took over Stanmore also. He had been planting in Mysore for about nine years, and had then been one of the pioneers in rubber down in the Mundakayam District before joining.

When he took over, tea was slumping very badly, the price in London being in the neighborhood of 4d. per lb., and as coffee was not



doing very well either, the owners of the three estates found finance extremely difficult and at one time it looked as if it might prove impossible to carry on at all, as no firm in either South India or Ceylon would lend money.

Eventually a rupee company was formed in Ceylon, with Messrs. Bosanquet & Co. as Agents and Secretaries, and Martin was appointed the Chairman of the Company for life.

Simcock had a difficult time when he first started plucking. Up to that date the labour in the District had been in the habit of going down to the low country at the end of March or early in April, when work on Coffee was finished, and the labour on the tea estates considered they should also go down, and there was a lot of trouble before they be induced to stop over April and May.

In 1900 J. H. Ireland Jones, who had been planting for a few years in Ceylon joined Simcock, and was appointed to Sirikundra.

After Ireland Jones joined the Company, the work of opening up the property continued gradually, and in 1913 the original Company, whose headquarters were Ceylon, was wound up and re-formed in England, with offices in London.

In 1914, a factory was erected on Sirikundra which gave the Company two factories, as they already had one on Monica Estate.

By the end of 1918 the following acreages had been opened up:

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<i>Monica:</i>	Tea	...	...	431 acres
<i>Upper Stanmore:</i>	Tea	...	...	333 "
	Coffee	...	...	188 "
	Cardamoms	...	...	205 "
<i>Sirikundra:</i>	Tea	...	...	682 "
	Coffee	...	...	112 "
	Cardamoms	...	...	100 "
<i>Nullatanni:</i>	Tea	...	...	115 "
<i>Lower Stanmore:</i>	Tea	...	...	114 "

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In February 1920, O. M. Hetherington joined the Company, and he was followed by G. B. Reade in June 1922.

In February 1921 the old Monica Factory was unfortunately burnt down, and a new factory was subsequently built on the same site, known as the Stanmore Factory.

J. C. Robertson joined the Company in January 1923, and started the continuance of the opening of Nullatanni Estate in 1924. He left in 1925 and was succeeded by H. de V. Gosselin.

The Nullatanni Factory was built in 1924, and as soon as this factory began manufacturing tea, the name of the estate was changed to Nullacathu, as there was already one Estate named Nullatanni in the High Range.

H. Gerry joined the Company in July 1924, and he was followed by C. W. Mayow in June 1925 and by J. L. H. Williams and J. H. Daughlish in September 1925, the latter being transferred to one of Messrs.

Brooke Bond's Estates in Kenya after four years' service.

Development continued steadily, and in December 1924, E. W. Simcock retired, and his place as General Manager was taken by Ireland Jones, who moved across from Sirikundra Estate to the General Manager's bungalow on Monica Estate. The old General Manager's bungalow and office having outlived their useful sphere of life were rebuilt in that year.

In July 1927, the Company purchased the adjoining Injipara Estate from R. Maclure and E. W. Simcock, and the 114 acres of tea on Lower Stanmore was merged with Injipara and took the name of that Estate. The name of Upper Stanmore Estate was altered to Stanmore Estate at the same time.

In February 1927 N. S. Bannatine, son of O. A. Bannatine mentioned above, joined the Company, and he was followed in 1930 by R. W. Thorpe, in 1931 by K. H. Vaughan-Arbuckle, in 1934 by T. S. Blakeney, and by M. H. Deane in 1939.

In April 1939, Ireland Jones proceed on leave prior to retirement, and was succeeded by G. B. Reade as General Manager, and at the same time J. L. H. Williams left the Company for the post of Visiting Agent to the Company's Agents and Secretaries, Messrs. Tea Estates (India) Ltd., Coimbatore.

By this time, the Company's property had been fully developed, and the acreages under cultivation in 1939 were as follows:—

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	General Manager: G. B. Reade			
	Factory Manager: C. W. Mayow			
<i>Monica Estate:</i>	Manager: N. S. Bannatine			
	Tea	... 729	ac.	
	Coffee	... —	"	
	Cardamoms	55	"	
	Undeveloped			
	area	... <u>199</u>	"	983·00 acres
<i>Stanmore Estate:</i>	Manager: R. W. Thorpe			
	Tea	... 635	ac.	
	Coffee	... 55	"	
	Cardamoms	122	"	
	Undeveloped			
	area	... <u>131·94</u>	"	943·94 "
<i>Injipara Estate:</i>	Manager: H. Gerry			
	Assistant: M. H. Deane			
	Tea	... 746	ac.	
	Coffee	... 220	"	
	Cardamoms	66	"	
	Undeveloped			
	area	... <u>208·24</u>	"	1,240·24 "

*Sirikundra Estate:* Manager: O. M. Hetherington

Assistant: T. S. Blakeney

Tea           ... 794   ac.

Coffee       ... —   "

Cardamoms   134   "

Undeveloped

area       ... 173.55 "       1,101.55 "

*Nullacathu Estate:* Manager: K. H. Vaughan-Arbuckle

Tea           ... 720   ac.

Coffee       ... —   "

Cardamoms   30   "

Undeveloped

area       ... 185.35 "       935.35 "

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5,204.08

Grand Total

acres

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The outbreak of war in September 1939, and the demands of the Army for men, resulted in five out of the Company's nine European employees in the East joining H. M. Forces, N. S. Bannatine, R. W. Thorpe, K. H. V. Arbuckle, T. S. Blakeney, and M. H. Deane all going on service during the year 1940.

To enable the Company to carry on during this difficult period involved considerable reorganisation, but Messrs. Tea Estates (India) Ltd. kindly allowed J. L. H. Williams to return to the Stanmore Company for the duration of the war, and in addition, E. C. J. Hill was engaged in a temporary capacity.

## THE VELLAMALAI TEA CO., LTD.

The above Company was formed in January 1924 to acquire two blocks of land adjoining Karamalai, Pachaimalai and Nadu Ar, and to open them in tea. The first Board consisted of C. A. Marsh, H. R. Lockie, E. W. Simcock and C. R. T. Congreve.

W. H. Martin, who had been planting in the Wynaad and on the Iyerpadi Estate, was engaged to start opening the estate, and has been the Manager of it ever since. The estate was divided into two divisions, Vellamalai and Kanjimalai, and the following openings took place:

		Vellamalai Division	Kanjimalai Division
1925	...	146.40 acres	
1926	...	207.56 "	
1927	...	196.33 "	48.90 acres
1928	...	40.18 "	228.33 "
1929	...		150.82 "
1930	...		20.00 "
Total	...	<u>590.47 acres</u>	<u>448.05 acres</u>

The following assistants have been on these estates: J.C. Fraser from 1929 till 1931; G. D. Olivier from the end of 1931 till 1932; H. F. M. Winterbotham from the beginning of 1933, still in the service of the Company as Superintendent of the Kanjimalai Division, but at present joined up in the Army.

## THE PERIA KARAMALAI TEA & PRODUCE CO., LTD.

The blocks of land belonging to this Company were granted to "Carver" Marsh in 1911, and arrangements were made to start opening tea towards the end of the same year. It being too late to obtain good Assam seed, the first seed purchased came from Ceylon, and consisted of a china hybrid. Nurseries were made under the care of E. N. House, who had lately come out from Home to Nadu Ar; and during the making and planting of these nurseries, on a piece of land originally felled by mistake by Meenachi Iyer when opening Iyerpadi Estate, but which had never been planted, he lived in the rest house at Iyerpadi.

House also helped me put in boundaries for felling, and that season we felled and pitted 160 acres, which was planted up in the monsoon of 1912. A. C. Cotton ("Chris") took charge of the estate sometime before this planting was done, and was responsible for most of the planting up of the Karamalai Division, which developed fairly fast for those days, planting the following acreages:

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1912	..	160	acres
1913	..	214	do.
1914	..	240	do.
1915	..	60	do.

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He left the estate in 1918 or early 1919, and was succeeded by D. Cooper, who had come out to Nadu Ar a few years before this. Cooper opened 96 acres in 1919.

Sometime about the end of the war the Oosimalai Co. was started, and this Company opened in cardamoms and cinchona, but it proved rather too high for cardamoms, and eventually the property was taken over by the Peria Karamalai Company.

Cooper unfortunately died of enteric in March 1926, leaving R. M. Sweet, who had not had much experience in sole charge, till A. W. F. Mills joined at the end of May of that year. Mills had been planting in Ceylon before the war, had then been on the Mudis for a bit, before going to Kenya to open tea there. He had however not cared for that country, and returned to take up work on Karamalai.

The Company was actually incorporated in July 1915 with Messrs. J. Christie, C. A. Marsh, H. Rinne, and C. R. T. Congreve as the first Directors.

In 1926 it was decided by the Board to extend our area under tea and to open up the Oosimalai Estate, and also the Akkamalai Estate, the land for which had lately been purchased from Government; and Mills was instructed to proceed on these lines.

In 1927 he opened 45 acres on Akkamalai and 55 on Oosimalai, having Sweet as assistant on Oosimalai. Next season A. De Stroumillo, who had come out as a creeper to Mills in 1927, was appointed as assistant in charge of Oosimalai, and the following year H. S. Collett became

Superintendent of Akkamalai.

In the following years, opening on both places continued, and the following acreages were opened:

		Akkamalai	Oosimalai
1928	...	147 acres	109 acres
1929	...	268 "	143 "
1930	...	120 "	133 "
1931	...		130 "

Mills opened up seven acres in 1927 on Karamalai, and this completed the programme of opening on the estates belonging to the Company.

Collett left the Company's service in 1933, and De Stroumillo in 1936. Besides these two the following were on the Company's estates for short periods: Rodney Dyke, a few months and Trafford the same; G. St. J. Breay for about two years from 1936 till 1938.

Mills retired home at the beginning of 1938, and R. M. Greig succeeded him as General Manager, and at the time of the outbreak of the present war the staff was:

R. M. Greig, General Manager; T. McCosh, Superintendent of Akkamalai; J. W. G. Phillips, Superintendent of Oosimalai Estate; and P. Newcome, Assistant on the Karamalai Estate.

On the outbreak of war McCosh joined up, to be followed by Newcome and Phillips; and F. G. Fox, an old Assam Planter was engaged for Akkamalai, and R. W. Mayow, a lad too young to join up, on Oosimalai. (Mayow has gone to the Cadet College at

Bangalore as these pages are in print). R. M. Greig, while returning from leave in 1941, was lost through enemy action, and G. Bayzand became Superintendent of Oosimalai with the author as General Manager.

## THE PARALAI ESTATES.

The Paralai Estate was the first to be opened in this District. E. G. Windle (the late Capt. Windle, M.B.E.) had been up in the District at the beginning of 1896, and after investigation had applied for the block of land which is now the Paralai Estate on behalf of himself and members of his family. He arranged with Carver Marsh to take on the job of opening the place for him on a salary of Rs. 250 per month with a commission on profits.

Early in February 1897 Windle, Marsh, and I came to the District, arriving on the Paralai rock on the 7th or 9th of that month, and Marsh at once started to try and arrange to open anyhow some acreage that season, despite the lateness in starting. We pitched a camp on the edge of the grass close to a swamp, where water was available, and lived there till about April or May when the first house was built just above in the jungle which had been more or less felled for the purpose.

As we had no carpenters or masons, the house consisted of three rooms built of rough stone with walls about 6 ft. high, and a thatched roof, and openings where glass windows might have been.

Marsh fixed certain rates for the transport of goods by head-loads from the plains, but the coolies, considering the rates too low, refused to carry them, and for the first month he lived almost entirely on tinned food which he had brought up when we first came. It was not long, however, before contractors, hearing that he was in the District, turned up asking for felling work, and about 80 acres were felled that season; though due to want of knowledge both by Marsh and the contractors who had never felled jungle of the type in this District, but had only dealt with small firewood coupes at the foot of the ghat, considerable difficulty was experienced to begin with, till our first Moplah contractor (one Verra Sahib) turned up asking felling work. This man, till his death some years after, and then his Nephew Mahmoo were responsible for the clearing of a very large acreage on Paralai, Puthutotam, Nadu Ar, Korangumudi, Kaliandepandal, and Karamalai, and Mahmoo was our chief felling contractor till about 1915 when he retired a rich man.

To revert to Paralai: we managed to plant up about 50 acres in 1897 partly with coffee plants brought from the Nilgiris, where Windle had made nurseries for the purpose, and partly with small seedling grown on Paralai by Marsh. A very small percentage came on, as the majority of plants from the Nilgiris had got heated on their long journey, and the seedlings were the only ones to come on at all. This was entirely due to luck, through Marsh's discovering the necessity for shading them. This he did about August, whilst walking to a new nursery

just being made, when, seeing loose bark off some of the felled trees, he remarked to me that in the Nilgiris all plants had to be shaded against the sun, but as there was no sun up here, it did not seem necessary; still, as the bark was lying about, we started in and shaded about 20 to 30 seedlings, with the result that within a week the difference between those shaded and the others was so marked that he collected all the available labour and shaded the rest.

When the Anamalai ghat road was started, Colin Mackenzie, who with Mitchell had got the contract for the construction of the road, asked Marsh to undertake the work, and he agreed provided Windle sanctioned it, which he did, making a proviso that Marsh should employ an assistant on Paralai. C. H. Brock (Lt.-Col. Brock, O.B.E., V.D.) was engaged, and joined up early in 1899. Brock had come out at the end of 1896 to his uncle Temple Wilson, owner of the Tuttapalayam Estate in the Nilgiris.

During the first period of Brock's employment on Paralai (which lasted till nearly the end of 1899), 285 acres of coffee was planted up, as well as five acres of tea, and ten of cinchona. Windle obtained the tea seed from a relation in Ceylon, with the idea of starting a tea seed garden, but the *jhat* was so mixed that it proved useless for the purpose.

The cinchona was partly from a very special seed got from Java by E. J. Martin, owner of the Monica Estate, at a very high price, as the seed was guaranteed to have come from parent trees giving 16% of sulphate of quinine. The rest of the seed came from some ledger trees in the Nilgiris. Windle

insisted on interplanting the whole of the coffee area with cinchona despite the strongest protests from Marsh who pointed out that the cinchona would damage the coffee if left to grow among it.

In 1899 the first cardamoms in the District were started in Lower Paralai, about 150 acres partly already under wild cardamoms being opened with the indigenous variety.

On Brock's return to the Nilgiris, J. R. Vincent, who had been for a short period in the High Range under the late Toby Martin, was taken on, and he worked on the estate first as assistant to Marsh, and subsequently as Manager of the estate till July 1908 when he went down to Mundakayam to a rubber estate, and was succeeded by Brock, who returned as Manager.

During Vincent's time the rubber was planted up, 250 acres being put under this product, mostly in Lower Paralai in the seasons 1905 and 1906. It was about this time or a little earlier that Marsh ceased to be connected with the estate, retiring from Paralai to take up work on the Puthutotam Estate owned by Congreve and himself, and Vincent was confirmed as Manager. In 1908 Vincent started the first tea, other than the five acres already mentioned, felling and planting up 100 acres just before he left. When Brock returned he found R. L. Lushington "creeping" with Vincent, and he stayed on under Brock for something under a year, when he went to Ceylon where he is now one of the leading planters. During Brock's second term of service, he had three other assistants, none of whom stayed long. The first



was Nigel Primrose, who was killed in the last war; he was succeeded by some lad whose name has been lost, and then by O'Reilly, from the Nilgiris. Late in 1910 or early in the following year, B. M. Pollard Urquhart joined up, and he remained on the estate till sometime after Brock finally retired from the District.

About 1910 Windle and A. G. Nicholson floated the Indian Peninsular Rubber & Tea Estates Co., Ltd., and the Paralai Estate was incorporated in this Company, whose other estates were situated in the Nilgiris and Shevaroyes. As soon as the Company was floated, Nicholson (the owner of the Glenburn and Hallacary Estates in the Nilgiris, also incorporated in the new Company) became the Visiting Agent for Paralai.

Between Christmas and the end of 1909 Brock received a cable from London instructing him at once to open 400 acres of tea, a somewhat large order considering the lateness of the season, and the difficulty of obtaining tea seed, and making nurseries. He had nurseries for about 150 acres only at the time, but managed to obtain seed from Ceylon, probably from the Belmont Estate, and succeeded in getting the work done, though he was only able to plant up 380 acres. He felled the area then under cardamoms, and the land right up to the Puthutotam boundary. A fire, which started somehow on a morning when the land wind was very strong, nearly burned out the Puthutotam and Paralai coffee, and it was a tremendous job stopping it, as sparks were flying right over the Puthutotam



hill, setting fire to stumps down by the coffee store. This planting was not very successful, but considering the large area planted up, and the smallness of most of the seedlings used, this was not to be wondered at.

In September of that year Brock received orders to open a further 700 acres on the Iyerpadi Estate, which had been purchased by the Company from Mr. Narasiah, the famous barrister of Coimbatore. Iyerpadi, originally named Cinnamon Grove, had been opened by Meenachi Iyer, nephew of Mr. Narasiah; and in the years 1898-99, so far as I remember, 100 acres were felled and planted with coffee; but shortly afterwards, when Meenachi Iyer's father (who had been living in Ootacamund) went to Hyderabad, his son went with him, and the estate was abandoned.

The felling, roading, lining pitting and planting of so large an acreage, to say nothing of the supplying up of the 400 acres planted the previous season, was a colossal job, and it speaks very highly for the capacity of Brock that it was done at all. During this year Nicholson got very ill with sciatica, and handed over the management of Paralai to Messrs. Barber & Pascoe, who became the Visiting Agents.

Brock started to get ill about this time, due probably to overwork planting up the very large acreages insisted on, and eventually gave notice, handing over to Berny Marden in March 1912. Marden only stopped about eleven months on Paralai, when he was succeeded by A. A. Robb, a

C. A. Marsh

Ceylon Planter who had worked for some time in the High Range.

In 1911 Brock built the present Group Manager's bungalow, and started the first factory on the estate.

Robb was Manager till March 1917, when he left, and his place was taken by Clan Fraser, who had been originally in Ceylon, and lately Manager of the Surianalle Estate in the High Range.

Fraser worked alone on the estate, which had by then been divided into three divisions, till the end of the war, when Dick Sullivan came to work under him on Lower Paralai, continuing there till sometime after Fraser's departure. It was during Fraser's time that the majority of the Grevillea shade was planted throughout the tea area.

## IYERPADI GROUP

In December 1919 the E. & S. J. C. W. Society Ltd. purchased Paralai Estate from The South India Peninsular Rubber Company. This Estate consisted of three divisions, Iyerpadi, Upper Paralai and Lower Paralai, and was managed by Mr. C. Fraser residing at Iyerpadi. His assistants were W. Wise at Iyerpadi (the original Paralai) and Wood at Lower Paralai. When the E. & S. took over, they made this into two Estates Iyerpadi & Paralai and the management was changed. Fraser left in 1920, and Mr. C. W. R. Tyler joined and was made the Group Manager of the Society's estates in the Anamalais, and was also Superintendent of Iyerpadi Estate. His

assistant was Mr. V. Marden. Mr. J. H. B. Sullivan was the Superintendent of Paralai Estate and Mr. J. P. Curwen was his assistant on the Upper Paralai division. The visiting agents were Messrs. Barber & Pascoe, Ootacamund. In October 1922 Paralai Estate was split into two Estates, Upper Paralai and Lower Paralai Estate. The estates consisted of the following acreages:—

		IPD	UPL	LPL	GROUP
Tea	...	637	435	460.50	1,532.50
Coffee	...	—	125	—	125
Roads and Bldg. Site		20	12	23	55
Swamps & Ravines	...	93.32	48.11	92.56	233.99
Reserve	...	348.02	421.72	152.50	922.24
		1,098.34	1,041.83	728.56	2,868.73

Since then 125 acres of coffee at Upper Paralai has been rooted out and planted with 96 acres of tea and 29 acres of cinchona.

At the end of 1922 C. W. P. Tyler resigned and Major Panton Wells took charge of the Group. In 1929 B. D. Darkin assumed charge of the Iyerpadi Group, and was relieved by F. J. B. Diaper in 1934. A new Factory was built at Lower Paralai Estate in 1926-27 to manufacture the leaf of Upper Paralai and Lower Paralai Estates. The Iyerpadi Factory burnt down in the early morning of the 31st December 1932, and was replaced by an all-electric factory with air conditioned rolling and fermenting rooms, which was opened in 1934.

## C. A. Marsh

A Group Hospital was built in 1927-28 at Paralai for the three estates, and a qualified Group Medical Officer, a compounder and a midwife were appointed in the same year.

The following is a list of the staff on the three estates since 1922:

Iyerpadi	Upper Paralai	Lower Paralai
	1922	
Mr. C. W. R. Tyler	Mr. J. P. Curwen	Mr. J. H. B. Sullivan
" V. Marden		" T. B. Orchard
		" E. L. Godley
	1923	
Mr. Irvine Stewart	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. E. L. Godley
" E. L. Chaplain		" W. T. Broadhurst
" W. T. Broadhurst		" W. H. Martin
	1924	
Mr. Sinclair Harrison	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. H. O. A. Waller
" H. W. Hutton		
" W. H. Martin		
" W. T. Broadhurst		
" G. M. Oakes		
" V. Marden		
" B. D. Darkin		
	1925	
Mr. B. D. Darkin	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. F. J. B. Diaper
" C. B. Maggs	" G. Bayzand	" W. T. Broadhurst

## Estate Histories

" T. B. Breen

" L. Topham

" W. K. Green

1926

Mr. B. D. Darkin

Mr. P. E. Achard

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper

" E. S. Conner

" C. B. Maggs

" H. Mathews

" L. Topham

" T. I. Breen

1927

Mr. E. S. Conner

Mr. P. E. Achard

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper

" C. B. Maggs

" A. Foote

" L. Topham

" T. I. Breen

" W. K. Green

1928

Mr. B. D. Darkin

Mr. E. S. Conner

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper

" N. Mc Callum

" T. Graham

" W. K. Green

1929

Mr. B. D. Darkin

Mr. E. S. Conner

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper

" L. Topham

" N. Mc Callum

" T. Graham

" W. S. Massey

## C. A. Marsh

1930

Mr. B. M. Behr	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. Creed
" L. Topham		
" G. R. Thurnham		

1931

Mr. B. D. Darkin	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. A. Foote
" L. Topham	" Sewell	
" G. R. Thurnham		
" N. B. Cockman		

1932

Mr. B. D. Darkin	Mr. H. W. Hutton	Mr. R. S. Creed
" G. R. Thurnham		" N. Cottrell
" N. B. Cockman		" A. Foote
" S. C. Vaux		" S. C. Vaux

1933

Mr. B. D. Darkin	Mr. H. W. Hutton	Mr. N. Cottrell
" N. B. Cockman		
" S. C. Vaux		

1934

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper	Mr. H. W. Hutton	Mr. N. Cottrell
" W. S. Heron		
" G. R. Thurnham		
" T. W. Rowe		

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relieved by F. J. B. Diaper in 1934. A new Factory was built at Lower Paralai Estate in 1926-27 to manufacture the leaf of Upper Paralai and Lower

Paralai Estates. The Iyerpadi Factory burnt down in the early morning of the 31st December 1932, and was replaced by an all-electric factory with air conditioned rolling and fermenting rooms, which was opened in 1934.

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" V. Marden		" T. B. Orchard
		" E. L. Godley
1923		
Mr. Irvine Stewart	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. E. L. Godley
" E. L. Chaplain		" W. T. Broadhurst
" W. T. Broadhurst		" W. H. Martin
1924		
Mr. Sinclair Harrison	Mr. P. E. Achard	Mr. H. O. A. Waller
" H. W. Hutton		
" W. H. Martin		
" W. T. Broadhurst		
" G. M. Oakes		



## C. A. Marsh

" V. Marden

" B. D. Darkin

1925

Mr. B. D. Darkin

Mr. P. E. Achard

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper

" C. B. Maggs

" G. Bayzand

" W. T. Broadhurst

" T. B. Breen

" L. Topham

" W. K. Green

1926

Mr. B. D. Darkin

Mr. P. E. Achard

Mr. F. J. B. Diaper

" E. S. Conner

" C. B. Maggs

" H. Mathews

" L. Topham

" T. I. Breen

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In 1904, when this Company was floated, rubber had just been started in South India, was supposed to grow well at the elevation of this estate, and great things were expected of it by the directors.

Hodgson asked Marsh to start opening for him, and in or about September 1904 the felling was started on land adjoining Korangumudi, and on the same side of the stream as that estate. I helped Marsh to demarcate the boundaries for this felling, the estate boundaries having been demarcated earlier in the year before the south-west monsoon. About February 1905 the burning took place, and soon after that Marsh went home on leave and I took over the work of completing the clearing, with the aid of Mr. Durham, the Korangumudi writer, a very

wonderful man, who ran that estate till his death a good many years after.

To the best of my recollection the first clearing was about 150 acres, and it was planted with Para rubber except in one or two rocky places where I was instructed to plant Ceara. The whole clearing was interplanted with Arabica coffee.

In the following September a further clearing on the other side of the stream was opened, and I had a most unpleasant experience taking the felling contractor to see the block to be felled, as without noticing it we crossed the estate boundary, and were completely lost from about 10.30 A.M. till about 4 P.M. when owing to a break in the clouds I was able to see which way to go to reach the stream, which we did eventually about 5 P.M. The felling contractor and his brother nearly died of fright, cold, and leeches before we got back to the open clearing once more.

Marsh returned from leave soon after this, and he planted that clearing, about 100 acres so far as I remember, that monsoon.

The following year we started a very large clearing down below the Waterfall, clearing everything between the river and the estate boundary, the acreage working out at about 400 acres, and after the burn-off, Marsh, Vincent and I camped on the river below the falls, and with three road tracers put in the whole of the estate paths in about a week. I went home on leave soon after that, but just before I left, a Mr. Welshman, who had been planting in the Nelliampathies, came as the first Superintendent of the estate, but he did not last long, leaving within a

few months, saying the work was too hard, and the life too lonely. Soon after my return from leave Hodgson engaged the late Mr. Kinlock as Superintendent and his first job was to build himself a temporary house on the site where the first bungalow was subsequently placed. Kinlock however did not last long either, and his place was taken by H. W. De Salis, from Mysore, where he had been working for some years. De Salis built the wooden bungalow which served as Manager's bungalow till 1924 when it became a club for the Company's estates.

Porcupines caused a great deal of damage to the young rubber, and Marsh got out about seven miles of strong galvanised wire netting, 4 ft. wide, which was erected all along the boundaries, and did a lot of good.

De Salis continued as Superintendent till some time about 1910 or 1911, when the place got too big for him, and he left and became Manager of the Waterfall Estate, and A. H. Sharp succeeded him.

Sharp was an old High Range planter, and had been the second Manager on Valparai and Varatuparai Estates, where he had been responsible for opening most of the coffee and cardamoms. Marsh always considered him one of the best planters he had ever met, and after he had been on Kaliandepandal for a very short time, A. C. Cotton (Chris), who had come out to me on Nadu Ar at the end of 1909, went down to work with him, to get experience of rubber. Sharp however, who was a sick man before he joined, did not stop long, but

retired home, and Cotton went up to Puthutotam for a short time before going to Karamalai as first Superintendent.

Hodgson for some reason then sent up the late Mr. Wright (known as Shikaree Wright), who had for many years made his living in the Wynaad shooting elephants. He must have been well over 70 when he joined us. I remember on one occasion, when I went down to visit him, his asking me whether I had ever known Captain Nolan, and then going on to say of course not, as he was the famous man who was killed at the charge of Balaclava.

He did not last long, and was succeeded by J. Hatton Robinson. At this period Marsh resigned the visiting of the estate, and was succeeded by E. F. Barber (Sir Fairless).

Robinson must have come to the estate either late in 1910 or early in 1911. In February 1913 J. A. R. Lloyd (now Assistant Tea Controller, and Joint Controller of the Indian Tea Licensing Committee) was assistant on the upper division, consisting of about 700 acres of cardamoms, and 200 acres of rubber cum coffee. The lower division, which consisted of about 800 acres of rubber cum coffee, was in charge of R. M. Michaelson Yeates. The first tea to be opened was cleared in 1913 and planted in 1914 in the lower division behind the old bazaar.

Robinson continued as Manager till April 1914 when he went to Valparai to succeed George Duncan who retired, and the late B. M. Behr came in his place. Behr had been planting for a considerable

number of years in the Wynaad before joining up on Kaliandepandal. Not long after his arrival, he had a very serious accident, when a bridge on the lower division gave way under him, and he fell on a rock on the back of his neck. I was asked to go down to Coimbatore to fetch the doctor, which I did. After lying in bed for a long time, Behr was able to get down to Madras for an X-ray examination, when it was discovered that he had broken his neck, and he went home for treatment, leaving Lloyd in sole charge of the estate, Yeates having left to join the army. During this period Rohan Fowke visited the estates twice monthly from Udamanparai Estate (now Thai Mudi).

Lloyd left these estates in 1916, and was succeeded by B. Ferguson. During Lloyd's time the tea area in the lower division was extended to about 200 acres, and he personally opened 2 small blocks of cardamoms behind the bungalow.

Behr had a curious experience with a tiger when on the estate. He was wakened by his butler one night, who said that a tiger was killing two buffaloes which he had just bought from Karamalai, so taking his shot gun, with his butler armed with a hurricane lantern, he went out to see what was happening. The tiger was inside one of the stables actually on one of the buffalo, which he had apparently chased into the stable, so, getting the butler to hold the light behind him, Behr opened the shutter and fired at the tiger's head, obviously blinding him as he never moved, and another shot killed him. He told us he had used No. 4 shot. The tiger was an especially large one, in

very fine condition.

Mr. Reilly, brother of W. V. Reilly, came up to the lower division sometime about then, and was there for two or three years.

J. D. Brewer came to Murugalli Estate about 1917 and began opening in tea, and in the following year W. V. Reilly came up and lived with Behr for a few months before starting to open up Sheikalmudi in tea. Behr left towards the end of 1918 and was succeeded by Irvine Stewart, a Ceylon Planter. The opening up of Murugalli and Sheikalmudi continued under the charge of Reilly, with Brewer under him, till the latter left the district in 1919 and was succeeded by T. Oliver, who was there till 1921 when he was succeeded by T. B. Orchard.

Early in 1919, J. C. Beale came to the upper division of Kaliandepandal, and worked there till his death in 1934.

In 1919 the property was sold to its present owners. The English and Scottish Joint Co-Operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., with Messrs. Barber & Pascoe as Agents.

T. B. Orchard left in 1922 for Paralai, Reilly taking his place with P. E. Achard as senior assistant. In 1920 W. Broadhurst came out from home and was appointed as assistant to Irvine Stewart on Kaliandepandal. Mr. C. W. R. Tyler, who lived in Iyerpadi, was the first Group Manager in the Anamalais between 1920-22.

In 1922 Major Panton Wells arrived at Kaliandepandal as the Group Manager, relieving Irving Stewart who went up to Paralai, and with him



came V. Marden as senior assistant.

The property was then divided into estates, the upper division of Kaliandepandal being renamed Candura, and the the lower one Nadumallai. This latter name did not find favour with Sir Fairless Barber, so the name Kaliandepandal remained till October 1927, when it was altered to Lower Sheikalmudi. The reason for the change of the names was that the estate had a reputation for being very malarious with the result that it was only with the greatest difficulty that labour could be induced to come and work there. The change of name and anti-malarial work soon improved the situation.

In 1923 L. Topham came out as assistant on Kaliandepandal, and in the following year Major Panton Wells left, W. V. Reilly taking over from him as Group Manager. At about this time H. W. Hutton came as assistant for six months, and V. Marden left for Iyerpadi in 1925.

The old Kaliandepandal bungalow, which had become the Candura Club, was dismantled in 1929.

From 1923 onwards the property was developed rapidly, and many men came and went, few remaining for long.

The Sheikalmudi Group then consisted of the following estates: Sheikalmudi; Murugalli; Kaliandepandal, lower division (later known as Lower Sheikalmudi), and upper division (later Candura).

170 acres of Candura Rubber was cut out during the years 1928-33 and replanted with tea.



From then onwards the staff of the group were:—

## SHEIKALMUDI AND CANDURA ESTATE

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GROUP MANAGER, SUPDT, SHEIKALMUDI EST.		ASSISTANTS
" CANDURA EST.	1924	F. J. B. Diaper (6 weeks)
SUPERINTENDENT		
1924-29 V. W. Reilly	1924	H. O. G. Walker (2 months)
1929-36 J. C. Blackham	1924-26	C. R. French
1930-1941 G. Bayzand	1926-27	W. K. Green
\$\$\$te A. Foote acted for 6 months in 1931)	1928	C. B. Maggs
	1928	L. Topham
\$\$\$ to date A. Lang	1929	R. S. Creed
	1929-32	L. E. Stephen
	1931-34	L. Topham
	1931	G. Foote (2 weeks)
	1932	C. Stewart and W. Heron
	1932-36	L. C. Filmer

C. A. Marsh

1933	V. E. Sewell
1933-37	C. Stewart
1936-38	S. C. Vaux
1937-40	R. B. Darkin
1938-40	T. C. Hutchinson
1940	L. W. Russell (3 months)
1940	P. L. Achard (2 months)

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## MURUGALLI ESTATE

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SUPERINTENDENT		ASSISTANTS	
1924	V. W. Reilly	1924-25	F. L. Gordon
1925	T. Ryan	1925	T. Breen
1926	C. B. Maggs (1 month)	1925	W. K. Green
		1927-29	G. L. Hay
1926-39	G. M. Oakes	1929	S. P. O'Rourke
1930-31	C. B. Maggs	1929-30	K. W. Rowe
1935	E. S. Conner (6 months)	1931-33	V. E. Sewell
1939-40	F. S. Conner	1931-34	S. P. O'Rourke

1940 to date	K. W. Rowe	1933-34	G. R. Thurnham
		1934-35	L. E. Stephen
		1934-36	S. C. Vaux
		1935-36	L. Topham
		1935-37	G. R. Thurnham
		1937	P. L. Achard
		1937-38	L. Topham
		1938	P. L. Achard
		1938 to date	G. R. Thurnham
		1939-40	L. W. Russell

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## LOWER SHEIKALMUDI ESTATE

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SUPERINTENDENT		ASSISTANTS	
1924-25	V. Marden	1924	H. W. Hutton.
1925-26	G. M. Oakes	1924-25	L. Topham
1925-29	P. E. Achard	1927-30	F. A. E. Threadgill
1929-34	J. F. B. Diaper	1928-29	C. B. Maggs
1933	A. Foote (6 months)	1930-31	T. C. Hutchinson
1934-35	N. B. Cockman	1931-32	W. S. Heron
1935	K. W. Rowe (6 months)	1933-34	V. E. Sewell

C. A. Marsh

		1938	G. R. Thurnham (6 months)
1935-36	N. B. Cockman (3 months)	1939-40	C. Stewart
1936-39	E. S. Conner		
1939-40	S. C. Vaux		
1940 to date	L. Topham.		

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